

Listening to the Word of God

"...when you read the Bible,
you must think that here and
now God is speaking with
me..."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Telling Each Other Who We Are



Acts 2:41-47

The Upper Room?



Solomon's Portico







Baptismal cisterns



1. Never Takes Pentecost for Granted

- Baptism of thousands (41, 47)
- Commitment to teaching (42)
- Sharing life together (44, 46)
- Covenant meals (42, 46)
- Prayer (42)
- Signs of transforming power (43)

Day by Day Relationships

- Awareness of critical needs (44)
- Openness to share (44-45)
- Unity (*homothumadon*) (46)
- Worship (43, 46, 47)
- Evangelistic growth (47)
- Cultural engagement (47)



2. Faces every fear of self-revelation

- Ten days of prayer 1:14

Pentecost -

Prayer to the Ascended

Christ always reveals:

ALL of our deepest needs

with one mind - *homothumadon*

What did they have to face?

- Fear Jn 20:19
- Feelings of inadequacy 1:11
- Resentment, disdain, forgiveness
1:14
- Guilt, shame, reserve 1:15-26

3. Lives in the Spirit of Truth

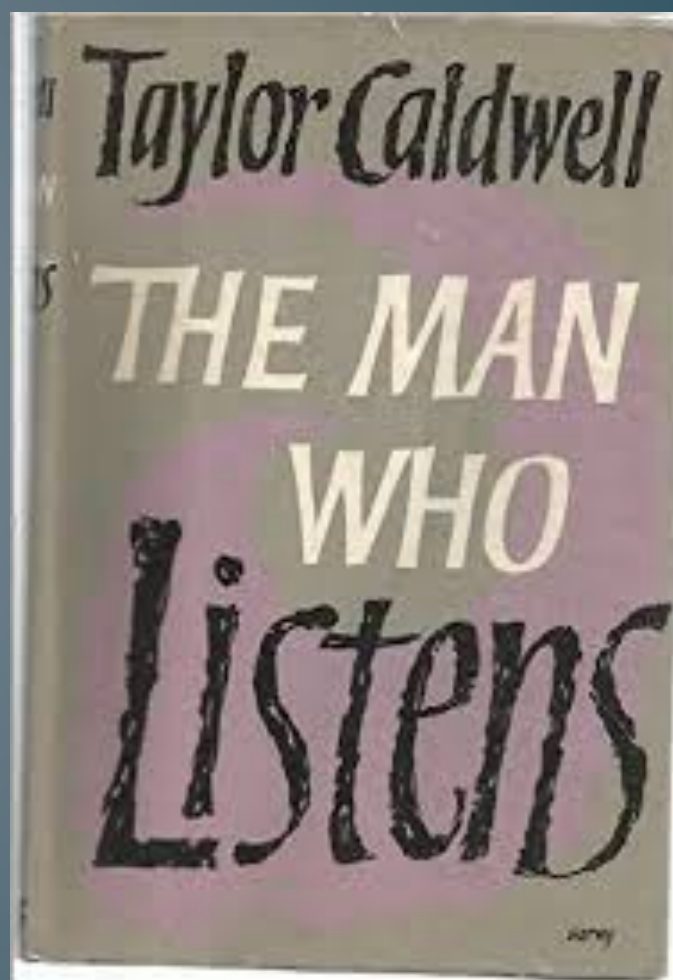
- The nature of God
- The 'calling' of Creation
- The uniqueness of the image of God
- The origins of sin
- Jesus and conversations
- Jesus' Promise: The Spirit of Truth
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4. Is a Community of Communication

- Listening - Do we ever really listen?
 - Everyone needs an attentive listener
- “We should listen with the ears of God that we may speak the Word of God”



God's Ear

- “The first service that one owes to others in the fellowship consists in listening to them. Just as love to God begins with listening to His Word, so the beginning of love for the brethren is learning to listen to them. It is God's love for us that He not only gives us His Word but also lends us His ear.”

John Powell on Communication

- Clichés
- Facts and Reports
- Opinions and Judgments
- Feelings
- True Christian Communication:

Affirmation

Rebuke

Discovery

A “Listening” Spiritual Body

- Word – Listening to Truth
- Prayer – Listening to His Voice
- Fellowship – Listening to Him and to
each another
- Sharing – Listening to critical needs

When Church is not real

- Meeting to hear preaching
- Corporate praise and worship

But is it true fellowship?

Is this what the Holy Spirit desires?



Reflection at mid-life

“The success of your life is not duration but donation”

Why will you be missed?