

***Reaching the Heart...
Through God's Presence***

The first service one owes to others is 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 lends us His ear. So it is His work we do for others when we listen to them...

...Most people are waiting for an ear that will listen. They do not find it among Christians, because these Christians are talking when they should be listening. But those who can no longer listen to others will soon no longer be listening to God either; they will be doing nothing but prattling in His Presence too...

...Christians have forgotten that the ministry of listening has been committed to them who is Himself the great listener and whose work they share. We should listen with the ears of God that we may speak the Word of God.

From *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

(To think of our being able to reach hearts through listening; thus, bringing God's listening heart of love to another...and therefore, His presence).

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**What is to reach the heart must come from above; if it does not come from thence, it will be nothing but notes, body without spirit.**

Ludwig van Beethoven

**God is not an idea, or a definition that we have committed to memory; He is a presence which we experience in our hearts.**

Louis Evely