

The Dance of Soul Talk

*From Soul Talk, by Larry Crabb
Modified by Earl D Oliver*

Someone you care about tells you about something going on in his/her life.

1. THINK BENEATH: Don't speak quickly. Think about the battle between religious traditions, cultural expectations and true Christianity. Is this person more aware of his/her desire for blessings or desire for God? Instead of "What should I say?" ask, "What's the real battle going on in my friend?"

3. THINK PASSION: How are you right now, self-conscious or self-obsessed? Feel it, confess it to God, and let brokenness put you in touch with your true desire to love this person. "What stirs in me for this person as I listen?"

2. THINK VISION: Reflect on how this person would be talking about his/her life if he/she wanted God more than his blessings. What would it mean for this person's life to be purposeful and meaningful? Ask, "What do I most want to see happen in my friend's life?"

4. THINK STORY: Listen with transcendent (*boundless*) curiosity to hear the hidden story of fear and shame and to hear shaping events that directed this person away from God in their attempt to find life. Ask lots of questions. Be stingy with advice.

5. THINK MOVEMENT: Pay close attention to any movement toward brokenness. Then put words to repentance, encourage specific acts of trust (*toward God and others*), share your confidence in God, and celebrate release of the person's true self.