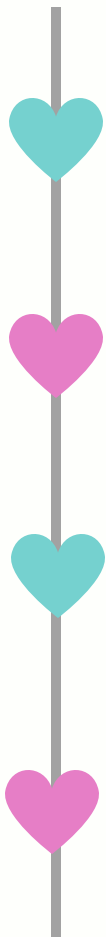


The Keys to a Person's Heart!

PASTOR DON PATTERSON

WHEN THE HEART OF A PERSON WHOM GOD IS CALLING US TO SERVE IS "LOCKED," WE MUST USE KEYS THAT WILL OPEN HIS HEART.

THERE ARE FOUR SIMPLE BUT EFFECTIVE KEY WAYS I'VE FOUND TO SHOW ANOTHER PERSON THAT YOU ARE GENUINELY INTERESTED IN HIS LIFE AND TO EARN OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE HIM.



1. Show a person's importance by learning and using his name. This is one of the keys I learned while working with teenagers. A person's own name is one of the most important words to him in any language.
2. Ask precise questions. Questions should show interest without being "nosey." We can encourage people to talk about things they are interested in, such as asking a businessman: "How did you get started in your present work?"
3. Listen with your heart, not just your mind. When we receive responses to our questions, we should ponder them and find in them the basis for asking additional questions. The religious teachers in the Temple marveled at the wisdom of 12-year-old Jesus because of the questions that He asked and His answers. (See Luke 2:46-47.)
4. Discern needs and attitudes. When God allows us to discern the root problems a person is struggling with, we should then be prepared to provide precise answers to help him. There are four major areas of need that most people will experience at some point in their lives: marriage conflicts, teenage rebellion, financial pressures, and health problems. If we are able to share practical, lasting solutions in these four areas, we will have an ever-widening ministry.

ALL OF THIS TAKES TIME: - WHOEVER GIVES THE TIME GETS THE HEART!

Write down the names of the people whom God wants you to serve and then list the ways in which you are serving or will begin to serve them. As you choose to follow Christ's example by placing the needs of others ahead of our own, you will fulfill the purposes God has for your life.