

Theory 10

THE ART OF ASKING GOOD QUESTIONS AND LISTENING, Part II

Objective: To gain further competency when leading the **second** half of a mentoring session by asking questions to capture a general sense of the mentee's interior/spiritual life and identify a particular issue.

Note: *These are suggested questions. This is NOT a script, but rather a guide so that the mentoring session is organic and natural, while still achieving the objective. Further, you will only ask one or two questions, NOT all of these, to gain the picture of your mentee's spiritual life.*

Intro: This exercise assumes that you asked your mentee enough preliminary questions to assess his or her issue to strategize and work on. These questions apply the virtue of prudence reviewed in Theory 8 and found in the Theory 8 Tool: Three Steps to a Good Decision.

Questions to guide a mentee in the decision-making process

Involve the Mentee: BRAINSTORM BEFORE YOU STRATEGIZE!

- a. Did you ask enough questions for you and the mentee to understand the issue you are focusing on clearly and concretely?
- b. What are the options?
- c. What's most important here?
- d. What are the pros and cons?
- e. What does God want?

Prudence defined: This is the virtue that assists someone *to know what the right thing is to do, how to do it at the right time, in the right way, with the right measure.*

Each question is, therefore, categorized according to whether it helps the mentee determine the right thing to do, the right way in which to do it, the right time in which to do it, and with the right measure. (Thing, Way, Time, Measure.)

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| Thing | 1. What's good about this issue? |
| Thing | 2. What's not perfect, yet? |
| Thing | 3. If you had to do it over, what would you do differently? |
| Way | 4. What am I willing to do to conform to God's Will? |
| Way | 5. What am willing to no longer do so that it conforms to God's Will? |
| Way | 6. How can I enjoy the process I must do to conform to God's Will? |
| Way | 7. What is the next step you could take to work on this issue? |
| Way | 8. Who could you ask for help on this? |
| Time | 9. When are you going to do this? Are you scheduling it right now (in front of me)? |
| Measure | 10. What is an appropriate amount of time and energy to devote to this? |

Conclusion: These sample questions are designed to give you, the mentor, an aid when it comes to asking good questions of your mentee to strategize the way to deal with the specific issue you helped him or her discover. They are organized into the various facets of the virtue of prudence to inspire your conversation and fulfill the objective for the second half of your mentoring session—to develop a strategy to deal with the particular issue uncovered.