

# The Music of Eternity

by Adrian VanKaam

Questions:

1. In the Introduction, the author describes “this shining forth of eternity in daily people, in often unnoticed events and things, epiphanies of the higher power that keep our hope alive.” (p. 8) Have you noticed this phenomena in any experiences you would be willing to share?
2. There seems to be a tension between “relaxed fidelity” and the statement that “if commitment is absent, neglect is present” with respect to the plane mechanic. How might we help a directee to avoid ‘anxious concern’ or fearfulness, while encouraging faithfulness?
3. How is fidelity a ‘wager’?
4. On p. 44 the author describes “the still point of my soul” as where my human spirit is enriched by the Holy Spirit. What does that phrase mean to you in reference to your prayer life?
5. Try the exercise on p.48 : practise mentally for a challenging moment and rehearse some responses based on trust in God in that moment. Discuss.
6. How did the “sacrament of the present moment” help a nurse overcome her aversion to her patients with leprosy in order to care for them?
7. Reflect on and discuss the meaning of these phrases : ‘The path of epiphany is the path of prayer’; ‘silent abiding’ ; ‘the gift of holy longing’; and ‘The church as herald and servant communicates to us the pathway of fidelity.’
8. In reference to Ety Hillesum, who died in Auschwitz the poet/author writes:” She lives and dies in praise of a presence that lets her taste immortality even is she does not express that miracle in words and concepts. “Does this expression remind you of anyone else you may have met or even read about?
9. At p. 15, the author prays for the “gift of far-sightedness”. How does the gift of far-sightedness help us to trust God despite our personal character flaws and failures, and facing the inevitable in our life, including our own death?