

SPLENDID TALK

A friend recently gave me a copy of *“The Letters Of C.S. Lewis”* which contains hundreds of letters Lewis wrote. These letters are full of little nuggets of wisdom, humor, insight, philosophy, etc. There was one phrase Lewis used in writing to a lady from Cambridge which blew me away. He said, *“What splendid talk goes on in your house.”*

Wow. What an amazing thing to say to someone. Almost simultaneously it brought back wonderful memories of evenings I’ve spent with friends where we might even talk until one o’clock in the morning. When I think of splendid talks I also think of certain people who are splendid talkers. They think before they speak and they’re anything but superficial. I hope this doesn’t sound vain, but when I have company over I want them to leave thinking our time was splendid, even life-changing.

With my hospice patients, in order to let them know that I really want to know how they’re doing, I might say, “This is a big question, Joe, but how are you really doing with all that’s going on in your life?” I’ve actually had people tear up or begin crying. It’s like they were waiting for someone to really talk to them about what was going on in their life.”

Wouldn’t it be neat if, as people leave being with you, they could say, “What splendid talks goes on in your house?” If there are two gifts I could give you to facilitate splendid conversations, the first would be to learn to ask good questions. Note how Jesus used questions to unlock people’s hearts. Secondly, learn the art of listening. Listen to what people are really saying. Most of us are afraid of sharing what’s on our hearts for fear of rejection. We need to let them know we’re not judging them. What Lewis calls splendid talking is a rarity in our superficial society. With God’s help, our life change that trend.