

## The Power of Questions



NEW DAY  
LEADERSHIP

I love questions. Well, most of the time.

Questions help us think thoroughly, consider our blind spots, reach firm conclusions, define ourselves, actualize our values, and live with intentionality. Questions, often more than statements, facilitate learning. Questions are effectual in so many ways, yet they can be powerfully dangerous.

The simple yet ghastly profound process of questioning “why” we do things can cause us to reaffirm our values as we realign our thoughts and values. It is easy to live in cruise control. Factors like familiarity, comfort, personal routine, ease, and common practice can keep us from asking the important questions that will challenge, refine and improve us. Questions are good.

Before reaching a hard-fast conclusion about the issue at hand it is important to consider context and influences. Surrounding factors like timing, location, intentions, agendas, motives, and desirable results, etc can come to light when honest and objective questions are asked. Questions can help us reach the wisest conclusions and most solid plans (Luke 14:28-33). Questions are good.

“What are you doing?” is a question that likely is an echo from our childhood. This one little question can set off an internal alarm. When we wrestle with this question and conclude things like “I wish I knew” or “I have no idea” an awakening is, or at least should be, on the horizon. Questions are good.

I’ve learned that questions from trustworthy friends help keep me from falling on my face (Proverbs 15:22). Their questions will help me recalibrate my expectations and plans so I’m as comprehensive as possible. Receiving their questions and thoughts keeps me humble and acting on them helps keep me wise. Questions are good.

Yet not all questions are good. The wrong question can start an avalanche that buries you so deep in abyss you can lose all sense of perspective. A bad question can be the rip tide that takes you far away from where you want or need to be. Consider the questions you are entertaining. Does a bad or unhealthy question haunt you? Consider intensely the questions you hold close to heart but dare not share with anyone.

Questions that do not need to be entertained can be the flood that sweeps you, and the ground you stand on, out of your garden and into the briar patch. Remember the first bad question (Genesis 3:1)?

Don’t allow you family, friends, or even those in authority over you, to cause you to question what doesn’t need to be questioned. These are the influencers that likely have the most power

in your life. Yet even they need to be objectively filtered to ensure the questions they ask are healthy.

Don't question what you know to be true. Although you likely reached the conclusion of those truths from questioning, don't question truth. Unquestionable truths start with biblical principles from sound hermeneutics.

Unquestionables also include the things you know about yourself from, often hard, personal experience. What are your personal strengths and weaknesses, and previous life celebrations, failures and experiences? What do you feel God has spoken concerning you and affirmed through its congruency with Scripture, an internal witness of the Holy Spirit, and through the testimony of many friends? Write these things down and be slow to question them.

If you have a difficult time accepting truths from Scripture like God is both just and loving, Jesus sustains all things, and redemption is only found in Jesus, then first consider the host of "truths for daily living" found in the book of Proverbs. You might be surprised by the truths for practical daily living found there that will resonate deep within you.

And a final thought - When we raise questions for others to consider let's be careful to ensure they are leading others appropriately. Raising questions for questions sake, or to be artsy, hip or fashionable is shallow. Questions should be the means to help produce and end, not an end in or of themselves. Questions which are an end in themselves can quickly lead to confusion, frustration, and even hopelessness. So, raise questions that lead others. Even good questions can be dangerous when they have an accompanying truth but are not closely followed by that well stated truth. In other words, if the question you raise has a corresponding truth, then make sure you state the truth before the conversation concludes.

Well, having said all that ... how about some questions?

1. What is the most important question you have ever asked yourself? Been asked by a friend? By a family member?
2. What is a question you often entertain that you shouldn't? See Genesis 3:1 if you need an example. How will you cease to consider this question?
3. What absolutes can you write down relative to who you perceive yourself to be? Relative to who God is? Who He says you are? What His will and plan for your life is?
4. What is the question you should be asking the members of your immediately family? How can you ask it in a way that demonstrates your desire to love, honor and serve them?
5. Imagine God asking you a question right now. What do you imagine He would ask?

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