

Book of Questions



I must confess that one of my great loves in life is questions. As faithful as I am to eating, a good question never fails to satisfy something within me.

I love questions a little bit more than answers. Answers are easy. They represent a work that has been completed—a finished product. Often, I'm satisfied with an answer—too satisfied, and I become complacent. I congratulate myself on my efforts. I become over eager to share my new nugget of wisdom with others—whether they want it or not.

Quick answers short circuit the process of discovery, crippling one's ability to explore truth for his or herself.

It is obvious that God knows this about our nature. This is why the most important questions cannot be satisfied by another's answer. We have to learn it "on our own."

Once someone has discovered the answer, the most horrible outcome is slothfulness—this means not asking any more questions. The reality is this: every meaningful answer, every spiritual answer, should lead to another question. Something that looks like: "Now that I know such and such, how shall I now live?"

All knowledge begins with a question—of this there is no exception (although many questions are unspoken). By asking a question, I'm really talking about an attitude—a teachable heart that says, "What might I learn?" Since all learning begins with asking a question, this naturally leads to a few deeper actions.

1. We should fine-tune our question-asking ability. We should ask more questions, and better questions. The best questions always begin with, "What does God want me to know about such and such?"

2. We should be relentless in our pursuit of truth and wisdom in our answers. (See Proverbs 3.)

3. We should faithfully accept God's truth and continue to press forward. At no point in this life has anyone ever ARRIVED at perfection and complete knowledge.

What follows are some personal questions I've asked myself over the years. This isn't a comprehensive collection of every great question. What you'll find are some thoughts to help you ponder spiritual realities, the condition of your soul, and the effectiveness of your life. As you use this journal to discover answers, I hope that you also learn to ask better questions of yourself and others.

I encourage you to do whatever you want with this journal. Work through the questions in any order you like . . . write out answers, pray about them, talk about them with a friend—whatever you like!

Here is my one guideline: GO DEEP. Don't settle for quick answers—even if some of the questions can be quickly answered. Reflect. Be still. Be quiet. Ask for God's help. Do whatever it takes to not settle for the superficiality that pervades nearly every area of our lives like a horrible disease. Shallow living is sinful.

For me, writing is a spiritual act that I must do to grow in my faith. So that is why these questions are in journal format. There are some blank pages in the back of this devotional. If you run out of room on a particular question, continue your thoughts in the back (and write the page number at the bottom of the original page so when you read back through this journal, you'll be able to clearly follow your writings.)

It is my prayer that these questions help you to grow to be more like the person God wants you to be.

**HOW OFTEN DO YOU SEEK GOD'S GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION
WHEN YOU AREN'T FACING A MAJOR DECISION OR PROBLEM?**

**WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU CRIED? WHAT MOVED YOU?
WERE THESE TEARS SPIRITUAL OR UNSPIRITUAL? WHAT DOES
THIS REFLECT ABOUT YOUR SPIRITUAL MATURITY?**

WHAT WAS YOUR EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL STATE WHEN YOU WENT TO BED LAST NIGHT? HOW WERE YOU FEELING— WERE YOU CHOKED WITH WORRY AND ANXIETY OR WERE YOU ABLE TO BE SATISFIED AND GIVE GLORY TO GOD? (IF YOU WERE “IN THE MIDDLE” OF THESE TWO EXTREMES, WHICH WERE YOU CLOSER TO?)

WHAT IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE TOMORROW? TRY TO BE AS SPECIFIC AS YOU CAN. OR, IF YOU ARE REFLECTING IN THE MORNING, WHAT IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE TODAY?

DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR LIFE A POSSESSION TO DEFEND OR A GIFT TO BE RECEIVED? (IF YOU ARE "IN THE MIDDLE" OF THESE TWO EXTREMES, WHICH ARE YOU CLOSER TO?) WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES/RESULTS YOU'VE SEEN IN YOUR LIFE WHEN LIVING "OUT OF" THESE ATTITUDES?

WHY DO YOU DO THE THINGS THAT YOU DO? CHOOSE THREE SIGNIFICANT THINGS YOU DID WITHIN THE LAST WEEK AND DISCERN WHY YOU ACTED THE WAY YOU DID.

WHAT ROLE DO YOUR FEELINGS AND ATTITUDES GENERALLY PLAY IN YOUR FAITH? HAVE YOUR FEELINGS EVER RESULTED IN UNGODLINESS?

DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF TO HAVE A HEALTHY FEAR OF GOD? WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU? WHY DO YOU FEAR, RESPECT, HONOR, ETC. GOD? WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WERE AWESTRUCK BY GOD'S GLORY? WHAT MOVED YOU TO SAY IN FAITH, "GOD IS GOOD!"?

CONSIDER YOUR RELATIONSHIPS . . . NOT JUST YOUR FRIENDS, BUT THE PEOPLE YOU ARE IN CONTACT WITH REGULARLY; PEOPLE WHOM GOD HAS PLACED IN YOUR LIFE AND THAT YOU HAVE A CHANCE OF IMPACTING. MAKE A LIST, AND NEXT TO EACH NAME WRITE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF WHAT YOU FEEL THEIR NEXT STEP SPIRITUALLY COULD BE. HOW DOES HAVING A VISION FOR WHAT GOD CAN DO IN OTHERS IMPACT THE WAY YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE?

HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING A LIFE OF INTEGRITY? ARE THERE SOME AREAS WHERE YOU HAVE COMPROMISED THAT WHICH YOU KNOW TO BE TRUE? DO YOU STRUGGLE MORE WITH KNOWING GOD'S DESIRES FOR YOUR LIFE OR DOING WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW TO BE TRUE?

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WERE CHALLENGED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT SO MUCH THAT YOU WERE REALLY UNCOMFORTABLE? WHAT WAS THAT LIKE?

NAME THREE PEOPLE YOU HELPED LAST WEEK—"ABOVE AND BEYOND" YOUR REGULAR DUTIES—AND WHAT YOU DID TO HELP THEM. WHAT WERE YOUR MOTIVES—WHY DID YOU HELP?

IF YOU WERE GOING TO DIE TOMORROW, HOW WOULD YOU FEEL ABOUT YOUR LIFE TODAY? WHAT WOULD YOU DO FOR THE LAST 24 HOURS OF YOUR LIFE? IF YOU WERE GOING TO DIE IN 6 MONTHS, WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH YOUR TIME?

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR BIGGEST REGRETS AND WHAT HAS GOD TAUGHT YOU THROUGH THEM?

ARE YOU EMBARRASSED WHEN PEOPLE ASK YOU ABOUT YOUR PRAYER LIFE? WHY?

IF THE PERSON YOU RESPECTED MOST SAW EVERY MINUTE OF YOUR LIFE FOR THE LAST WEEK, WHAT WOULD THEY SEE THAT WOULD SURPRISE THEM?

WHY DO YOU THINK GOD CREATED US WITH THE CAPACITY FOR GUILT?

WHAT ARE SOME DOUBTS YOU HAVE ABOUT GOD THAT YOU'RE AFRAID TO SHARE WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS?

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU THOUGHT REALLY BADLY ABOUT SOMEONE? WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?

EVEN THOUGH GOD IS PRESENT EVERYWHERE, THIS DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN IGNORE HIS PRESENCE. WHAT ARE SOME THINGS YOU "NATURALLY" DO THAT KEEP YOU FROM ACKNOWLEDGING HIS PRESENCE IN YOUR LIFE?

WHY IS IT WORTH TALKING TO A GOD WHO KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT US?

WHAT IS ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE BIBLE VERSES AND WHY?

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WERE OFFENDED? WHY DID THIS BOTHER YOU SO MUCH? DID YOUR ATTITUDE/RESPONSE RESULT IN ANYTHING SPIRITUAL (OR ANYTHING GOOD)?

IS THERE ANYONE IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW WHO DESERVES AN APOLOGY FROM YOU?

WHAT ARE FOUR OF YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS THAT YOU'RE MOST PROUD OF?

IF YOU WERE CALLED BY GOD TO GO SERVE AS A MISSIONARY IN ANOTHER COUNTRY, AND YOU WERE ABSOLUTELY SURE THAT YOU HAD TO LEAVE WITHIN A WEEK, WHAT WOULD YOU DO? WHAT IF YOU WERE CERTAIN THAT YOU WOULD NEVER SEE YOUR FAMILY AGAIN?

LIST AT LEAST TEN THINGS YOU'D LIKE PEOPLE TO SAY AT YOUR FUNERAL. LIST FIVE THINGS YOU FEAR THEY MIGHT SAY.

**DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU KNOW YOUR FULLEST POTENTIAL?
WHAT IS YOUR GOD-ENTRUSTED POTENTIAL?**

PROVIDE A SNAPSHOT OF YOUR PERSONAL DEVOTION TO GOD. WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO CELEBRATE HIS PRESENCE IN YOUR LIFE AND CULTIVATE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM?

WHAT WAS THE LAST BIT OF DIFFICULT-TO-ACCEPT FEEDBACK OR CRITICISM YOU GOT FROM A FRIEND? WHAT MADE IT SO HARD TO HEAR?

DO YOU TALK TOO MUCH? WHAT KIND OF POWER AND IMPACT DO YOUR WORDS HAVE? WHERE DO YOU SEE GOD MOVING IN YOUR LIFE?

WHAT ARE SOME OTHER QUESTIONS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOURSELF? ASK OTHERS? ASK GOD?