

Isn't talking about questioning God's wisdom, love or purpose. Isn't talking about *The Questioning God* that is, *the God who asks questions* really, really good questions.

Someone wisely said "The one who asks the questions controls the conversation." While questions can be manipulative and cruel, they can also be compassionate and healing. The last time you met with a doctor, did you notice that doctors spend most of their time asking questions? The *Great Physician* asks questions as well. And no one is more able, more interested and more committed to your healing than He.

Questions convict: Gen 3:9 Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "**Where** are you?" God doesn't need to ask questions to get answers. He is omniscient! He asks questions because *we need the answers*. Where was Adam? Hiding in shame and fear because he rebelled against God's gracious command.

Questions clarify: Gen 4:6 So the LORD said to Cain, "**Why** are you angry? And **why** has your countenance fallen? *Why indeed?* Because Cain refused to offer a sacrifice in faith according to God's plan. He was unwilling to spill lamb blood but more than willing to spill human blood. Such is the perversity of the human heart.

Questions confront: Gen 4:9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "**Where** is Abel your brother?" God confronted Cain with his awful sin and rather than confess, Cain lied. Questions connect us to our guilt and draw us to repentance or drive us to rebellion. Questions stick!

Questions direct: Gen 16:8 And He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, **where have you come from, and where are you going?**" She knew where she came from but had no idea where to go! God's question caused her to slow down, reassess her direction and trust in God's greater purpose & follow His command.

Questions correct: Jonah 4:4 Then the LORD said, "**Is it right for you to be angry?**" (This question is one God speaks to my heart frequently.) Jonah's heart was hard. He was full of anger, self pity and bitterness. God would gently repeat the question. Jonah would react in continued anger. Jonah was ticked that God was so merciful. If God weren't, Jonah would have been toast! (Or whale doodoo!)

Questions comfort: Gen 18:13-14 And the LORD said to Abraham, "**Why** did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?' "**Is anything too hard for the LORD?** At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son."

Sarah's laugh of incredulity would turn into a laugh of elation and praise when she named the miracle boy "laughter."
Is anything too hard for the Lord? Obviously not!

Questions astound: Mark 10:18 **Why do you call Me good?** No one is good but One, that is, God. The rich young ruler had a definition of good that was bad! He felt he was good. But the ruler had the wrong ruler (measure). Jesus confronted him with the true standard of goodness: perfection! With that as the standard, God alone is good.

One of my favorite studies is: "The questions God asks." Let me encourage you to send me some of your favorite questions from God. Remember: *God asks because we need the answers!*

For Further Study: The questions of Jesus in the gospels; Isaiah 40 is full of questions; Job 38-41 (how many questions does God ask Job? What's His point?)

Lord, thank You for caring enough to ask us questions. Sometimes I ask questions insincerely; just to be polite. I am so grateful that You ask questions because I need the answers. And thank You for giving me the answers to the questions that require them, and for withholding the answers for now to the questions that don't. Your silence is as merciful as your speech. Teach me to be still; to contemplate the answers to the questions You ask. Teach me how to ask good questions and to care enough to listen carefully to the answers. You are the Word, the God who speaks, the God who communicates. Thank you for the incredible blessing of communication with you and with others. You have not left me alone, and You never will, O Answer to every question of my heart. Amen.

Remember, you are very special to us and are praying for you continually.
Living with leaving in view.... Jn 9:4 Ron & Val

Seeing The Invisible, embracing The Unapproachable, declaring The Unexplainable, changed by The Immutable, running after The Irresistible with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows, spending our time on eternity, owning nothing yet possessing everything that matters and lasts. We are Pilgrims in Paradox. Welcome to THE JOURNEY.