

Theological Musings from Dave's Laptop

April 19, 2016

It's been said that "a question well-asked is half-answered," and that "the most important part of knowledge is understanding what questions to ask. As distinct from simple knowledge, *wisdom* often comes from sitting with unanswered questions and letting them speak deeply into our spirits.



For many years, this short piece from poet Rainer Rilke has encouraged me to find rest in questions:

Be patient toward all that is
unsolved in your heart
And try to love the questions themselves.
Do not seek the answers
that cannot be given you
Because you would not be able to live them
And the point is to live everything.
Live the questions now.
Perhaps you will gradually without noticing it
Live along some distant day into the answers.

The current issue of *fellowship!*, the news journal of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, offers a number of helpful thoughts about questions.¹ The most important questions, of course, are those questions God asks us. Here are a few famous ones:

"Where are you?"²

"What is in your hand?"³

"Who do you say that I am?"⁴

"What do you want me to do for you?"⁵

¹ The columns/articles from which these thoughts come were written by Bo Prosser and Joshua Speight. They cite *The Questions God Asks Us*, by Trevor Hudson and *What to Talk About with Your Coach*, by Eddie Hammett.

² God to Adam & Eve (Genesis 3:9)

³ God to Moses (Exodus 4:2)

⁴ Jesus to the Disciples (Mark 8:29)

⁵ Jesus to a Blind Man (Mark 10:51)

After the questions God asks of us, perhaps next important are questions we ask ourselves. Here are a few:

WHERE ARE YOU?

Where are you in relation to God these days?
How would your life be different if you were closer to God?
What are the main stresses in your life right now?

HOW ARE YOU?

How are you feeling about yourself?
How are you looking at your life?
How are you feeling about others?

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON?

What is something you're currently doing that you're proud of?
What is giving you energy?
What challenges are you facing?

WHAT'S NEXT?

What is the next goal in your spiritual transformation?
What do you want for yourself next?
What do you think God wants for you next?

Choose a question that feels "alive" for you right now and take it into your prayer life every day. Sit with the question, silently waiting for God to respond. If the God of the universe says anything to you or gives you a spiritual impression of some sort, write it down.

Let the questions grow. Perhaps you will gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answers.

Dave



Be patient toward all that is
unsolved in your heart
And try to love the questions themselves.

Do not seek the answers
that cannot be given you
Because you would not be able to live them
And the point is to live everything.

Live the questions now.
Perhaps you will gradually without noticing it
Live along some distant day into the answers.

--Rainer Rilke--

