

Learning From The Most Powerful Questions of Scripture??

Depending on the Bible version, we can find around 3300 questions in the Bible (About 1/3 of these are in the New Testament)

Before anyone goes to counting question marks in their Bible ...realize ... Question marks have only been around since the 8th century. There weren't ANY in the original Hebrew or Greek text, but you can usually tell from wording when the text is making a statement or asking a question.

My hope today is to have each of us asking MORE & Better questions of people!

Why are questions important?? ... here's an example... from scripture

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

Luk 18:1 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray & not lose heart,

Luk 18:2 saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man.

Luk 18:3 Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.'

Luk 18:4 And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man,

Luk 18:5 yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.' "

Luk 18:6 Then the Lord (*Jesus*) said, "**Hear** what the unjust judge said.

Luk 18:7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?

Luk 18:8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. ****Nevertheless,**

when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?!"



****Nevertheless** - But. Notwithstanding this. Though this is true that God will avenge his elect, yet will He find his elect "faithful?" The danger is not that "God" will be unfaithful - He will surely be true to His promises; but the danger is that His elect - His afflicted people - will be **discouraged**; will **not persevere** in prayer; will not continue to have **confidence** in Him; and will, under heavy trials, sink into **despondency**.

Will you? What knocks you off balance? Anything?

The sole meaning of this phrase, therefore, is, that "there is more danger that **His people would grow weary**, than that God would be found unfaithful and fail to avenge His elect." For this cause Christ spoke the parable, & by the "design" of the parable this passage is to be interpreted.

In other words, Jesus is urging His disciples (and us as readers) to maintain **steadfast faith** & persistence in prayer even when faced with challenges or apparent delays in receiving answers. The question about finding faith when He returns emphasizes the importance of **faithfulness & perseverance-in-prayer**, even in difficult times.

*Here are some rhetorical questions to ... address fundamental aspects of human nature, faith, and existence, **challenging** the reader to **consider** profound spiritual and ethical truths. They are intended to prompt deep reflection and introspection.*

Psalm 8:4 - "What is man, that You are mindful of him?"

Job 38:4 - "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?"

Job 40:2 - "Shall he that contends with the Almighty instruct Him?"

Job 38:2 (GNB) Who are you to question My wisdom with your ignorant, empty words ?"

1 Corinthians 15:55 - "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"

Job 14:14 - "If a man die, shall he live again?"

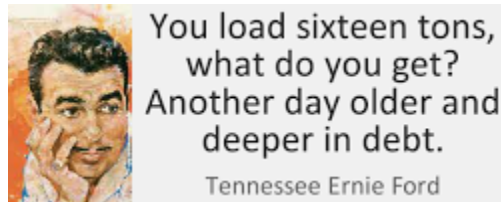
Matthew 6:27 - "Which of you by taking thought can add one inch to his height?"

More rhetorical questions involving themes, including divine knowledge, human frailty, moral choices, and the nature of God's wisdom. They continue to **challenge** and **inspire** readers (or people hearing these questions) to contemplate the deeper aspects of life and faith.

Psa 94:9 (NIV) Does He who fashioned the ear not hear? Does He who formed the eye not see?

Job 4:17 "Shall mortal man be more just than God? Shall a man be more pure than his maker?"

Ecc 3:9 (NLV) What do people **really get** for all their hard work?



Mat 23:33 Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?

1Co 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?"

Romans 11:34 - For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been His counselor?

Matthew 7:9-10 - Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

Luke 6:39 - Can the blind lead the blind? Shall they not both fall into the ditch?

Romans 6:16 - Know you not, that to whom you yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants you are to whom you obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Benefits of Questions...

Promotes Learning and Understanding: Asking questions helps to clarify concepts, gather information, and deepen understanding. It encourages active engagement with the subject matter, which leads to improved learning outcomes.

Encourages Critical Thinking: Crafting and answering questions promotes critical thinking by requiring individuals to analyze information, make connections, and evaluate different perspectives.

Facilitates Communication: Questions initiate conversations and facilitate effective communication by encouraging dialogue and interaction between individuals. They also show interest in the other person's thoughts and experiences.

Gathers Information: Asking questions is a fundamental way to gather information. It allows you to acquire new knowledge, understand different viewpoints, and explore unfamiliar topics.

Identifies Problems and Solutions: Questions are essential for problem-solving. They help identify challenges, uncover root causes, and generate potential solutions by encouraging a systematic approach to addressing issues.

Enhances Engagement: Asking captures attention and engages responder. This engagement collaboration.



thought-provoking questions both the questioner and the fosters active participation and

Builds Relationships: Asking interest in others, which can help relationships. It shows that you perspectives.

questions demonstrates genuine build rapport and strengthen value their opinions and

Fosters Creativity: Open-ended questions can stimulate creative thinking and innovation. They encourage individuals to explore possibilities and consider different angles.

Empowers Decision-Making: Well-considered questions guide decision-making processes by prompting individuals to weigh pros and cons, gather relevant information, and assess potential outcomes.

Promotes Self-Reflection: Asking introspective questions encourages self-reflection and personal growth. It prompts individuals to assess their values, goals, and experiences.

Enhances Teaching and Leadership: Skillful questioning is a powerful teaching and leadership tool. It encourages active participation, helps assess comprehension, and stimulates discussion. (*Socratic Dialogue*)

Resolves Misunderstandings: Asking clarifying questions can prevent misunderstandings by seeking further information and addressing potential ambiguities.

Promotes Empathy: Thoughtful questions allow individuals to understand others' experiences, challenges, and perspectives, promoting empathy and fostering harmonious relationships.

The world's greatest question!?! (not rhetorical) is:

“What good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?”

Matthew 19:16

“What must I do to be saved?” Acts 16:30

“What shall we do?” Acts 2:37

“Lord. What do You want me to do?” Acts 9:6



Most important question in the Bible!?!:

Mar 8:27 Now Jesus and His disciples went out to the towns of Caesarea Philippi; and on the road He asked His disciples, saying to them, "**Who do men say that I am?**"

Mar 8:28 So they answered, "John the Baptist; but some say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets."

Mar 8:29 He said to them, "**But who do you say that I am?**" Peter answered and said to Him, "You are the Christ."

Mar 8:30 Then He strictly warned them that they should tell no one about Him.

Why ??

Php 2:9-11 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Act 4:12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is **no other name** under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

More Rhetoric...

“Did God really say . . . ?” (Genesis 3:1)

This is the *first question* in the Bible and also the first instance of someone questioning God's Word. Satan tempts Eve to doubt God's Word. Eve responds by adding to God's Word: “And you must not touch it.” God told Adam and Eve not to eat from the tree. He did not say not to touch the tree or its fruit. Adam and Eve respond to Satan's question by disobeying God's Word. It went downhill from there, and it all started with a little question.

“Where are you?” (Genesis 3:9)

This is the *first question asked by God* in the Bible. Of course, God knew exactly where Adam and Eve were physically located. The question was for their benefit. God was essentially asking, “You disobeyed me; how is that working out for you? Did things turn out like you wanted or how I predicted?” The question also shows the heart of God, which is the heart of a shepherd seeking out the lost lambs in order to bring them into the fold. Jesus would later come “to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10).

“Am I my brother’s keeper?” (Genesis 4:9)

This was Cain’s question in response to God’s question of where Abel was. Beyond the fact that Cain had just murdered his brother, Cain was *expressing the feeling we all have* when we do not want to care about or look after other people. Are we our brother’s keeper? Yes, we are. Does this mean we have to know where they are and what they are doing 24/7? No. But, we should be invested enough in other people to notice when something seems to be out of place. We should care enough to intervene, if necessary.

“Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!” (Job 2:9)

The entire book of Job resounds with this question from Job’s wife. Through it all, Job did maintain his integrity. Job’s “friends” repeatedly say, “Job, you must have done something really bad for God to do this to you.” God rebukes Job’s friends for attacking Job and for presuming on God’s sovereign will. Then God rebukes Job by reminding him that only God is perfect in all His ways.

“How can a young person stay on the path of purity?” (Psalm 119:9)

The answer: by living according to God’s Word. When we “hide” God’s Word in our hearts, the Word keeps us from sin (Psalm 119:11). The Bible does not tell us everything. It does not contain the answer to every question. But the Bible does tell us everything we need to know to live the Christian life (2 Peter 1:3). God’s Word tells us our purpose and instructs us how to fulfill that purpose. The Bible gives us the means and the end.

“Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” (Isaiah 6:8)

The correct answer is spoken by Isaiah: “Here am I. Send me!” Far too often, our answer is, “Here am I—but send someone else.” Isaiah 6:8 is a popular verse to use in connection with international missions. But, in context, God was not asking for someone to travel to the other side of the planet. God was asking for someone to deliver His message to the Israelites. God wanted Isaiah to declare the truth to the people he rubbed shoulders with every day, his own people, his family, his neighbors, his friends.



“Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” (Matthew 18:21)

Forgiveness is tough. Peter’s suggestion of seven-fold forgiveness probably seemed, to him, to be superbly gracious. Jesus’ answer showed how feeble our forgiveness usually is. We are to forgive because God has forgiven us of so much more (Colossians 3:13). We forgive not because a person deserves it. “Deserve” has nothing to do with grace. We forgive because it’s the right thing to do. That person might not deserve our forgiveness but neither did we deserve God’s, and yet God forgave us anyway.

“Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?” (Romans 6:1)

We are saved by grace (Ephesians 2:8). When we place our faith in Jesus Christ, all of our sins are forgiven and we are guaranteed eternal life. Salvation is God’s gift of grace. A true Christian will not live “however he or she wants.” A Christian has a new Master and does not serve himself any more. A Christian will grow spiritually, progressively, in the new life God has given him. Grace is not a license to sin. Willful, unrepentant sin in a person’s life makes a mockery of grace and calls into question that person’s salvation (1 John 3:6). Yes, there are times of failure and rebellion in a Christian’s life. The balance is found in Jesus’ words to the woman taken in adultery. After refusing to condemn her, He said, “Go now and leave your life of sin” (John 8:11).

More Rhetorical Questions ...

These questions delve into themes of **justice, God's presence, human responsibility, and the proper way to approach the divine**. They invite readers to grapple with the **complexities of faith, morality, and the human-divine relationship**.

Amos 3:3 - "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"

Micah 6:6-7 - Wherewith shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the high God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil?



These questions touch on topics like the nature of **God's judgment, the value of human life, the limitations of human understanding, and the pursuit of wisdom**. They continue to provoke deep contemplation and encourage readers to reflect on their beliefs and actions.

Matthew 12:11-12 - "And he said unto them, 'What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the Sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out? How much then is a man better than a sheep?'"

1 Corinthians 6:7 - "Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? Why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?"

James 4:14 - "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

Proverbs 20:9 - "Who can say, 'I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin'?"

Jer 12:5 If you have raced with runners and they have worn you out, how can you compete with horses? (*bigger trials ahead!*)

These questions touch on themes of **human limitation, divine sovereignty, the fleeting nature of life, and the significance of faith.**

Galatians 3:2 - "This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?"

Hebrews 2:3 - "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?"

Rom 14:4 Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

Matthew 8:27 - "But the men marveled, saying, 'What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?'"

John 6:67-68 - "Then said Jesus unto the twelve, 'Will ye also go away?' Then Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life.'"

Jeremiah 13:23 - "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? Then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil."

1Jn 3:17-18 If anyone has this world's goods and sees his brother in need but closes his eyes to his need--how can God's love reside in him? Little children, we must not love with word or speech, but with truth and action.

