

Answering Questions God Asks in Scripture

When we think of "hearing God," most of us think of God giving direction, like "Move to Timbuktu." We think of God telling us what to do.

But Scripture paints a different picture of hearing God. It's more relational, conversational even. Most conversations begin when one person introduces a topic. Our friends want to tell us of their kids acting in a school play, and we talk with them about it. Sometimes it's even hard to change the subject.

How can we have a conversation with God and let him introduce the topic? How can we let him steer the conversation? One of the best ways I know is to answer any question God asks in Scripture.

Some of my best prayer times have begun by answer one of these questions, telling God what I think, feel, hope, and fear. And then letting him converse back.

Over the years, I've collected scores of questions God asks in Scripture. Below are some of my favorite.

To Adam and Eve:

- Where are you? (Gen. 3:9)
- Who told you that you were naked? (Gen. 3:11)
- Have you eaten of the tree I commanded you not to eat? (Gen. 3:11)
- What is this you have done? (Gen. 3:13)

To Cain after he murdered Abel: "Where is your brother?"

To Jacob, as he fought with the angel of the Lord, "What is your name?"

To Sarah when she laughed in disbelief, "Why did you laugh?"

To Hagar, as she despaired in the desert, "What is the matter, Hagar?"

To Job:

- "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?" (Job 38:2)
- "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? (Job 38:4)
- "Do you give the horse his might? Do you clothe his neck with a mane? Do you make him leap like the locust? His majestic snorting is terrifying" (Job 39:19-20)

To Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul since I've removed the kingship from him?"

To King David (an unspoken question when Nathan confronts him), "What should be done to this man?" (2 Sam. 12:1-6)

And if you greet your brethren only, what is unusual about that? Do not the unbelievers do the same? (Matt 5:47)

Why are you anxious about clothes? (Matt 6:28)

Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye yet fail to perceive the wooden beam in your own eye? (Matt 7:2)

Why are you terrified? (Matt 8:26)

Why do you harbor evil thoughts? (Matt 9:4)

Do you believe I can do this? (Matt 9:28)

Who is my mother? Who are my brothers? (Matt 12:48)

Why did you doubt? (Matt 14:31)

How many loaves do you have? (Matt 15:34)

What do you want me to do for you? (Matt 20:32)

Did you never read the scriptures? (Matt 21:42)

Why are you testing me? (Matt 22:18)

Do you think I cannot call upon my Father and he will not provide me at this moment with more than 12 legions of angels? (Matt 26:53)

My God, My God, Why have you forsaken me? (Matt 27:46)

Who has touched my clothes? (Mark 5:30)

Why does this generation seek a sign? (Mark 8:12)

{To the Blind man} Do you see anything? (Mark 8:23)

What were you arguing about on the way? (Mark 9:33)

Why were you looking for me? (Luke 2:49)

What are you thinking in your hearts? (Luke 5:22)

Where is your faith (Luke 8:25)

What is your name? (Luke 8:30)

Who touched me? (Luke 8:45)

If even the smallest things are beyond your control, why are you anxious about the rest? (Luke 12:26)

For who is greater, the one seated at a table or the one who serves? (Luke 22:27)

Why are you sleeping? (Luke 22:46)

What are you discussing as you walk along? (Luke 24:17)

Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter his glory? (Luke 24:26)

Have you anything here to eat? (Luke 24:41)

What are you looking for? (John 1:38)

If I tell you about earthly things and you will not believe, how will you believe when I tell you of heavenly things? (John 3: 12)

Do you want to be well? (John 5:6)

How is it that you seek praise from one another and not seek the praise that comes from God? (John 5:44)

If you do not believe Moses' writings how will you believe me? (John 5:47)

Where can we buy enough food for them to eat? (John 6:5)

Does this (teaching of the Lord's Supper) shock you? (John 6:61)

Do you also want to leave me? (John 6:67)

Woman where are they, has no one condemned you? (John 8:10)

Why do you not understand what I am saying? (John 8:43)

If I am telling you the truth, why do you not believe me? (John 8:46)

Do you realize what I have done for you? (John 13:12)

Have I been with you for so long and still you do not know me? (John 14:9)

Have you come to believe because you have seen me? (John 20:29)

Do you love me? (John 21:16)

What concern is it of yours? (John 21:22)