

Chapter 1 Questions

Chapter 1 *The Bible is the Word of God*

1. *Man has only three problems: sin, sorrow and death.* Which of these three troubles is the most acute in your life right now? How are you heeding the Bible's counsel on how to handle it? What other counsel are you tempted to follow and act upon?
2. Which one or two observations from nature most astound you with their enormity, their complexity, their mystery, or their consistency? How do these speak to you of God's creative power and wisdom and truth revealed about Him in Scripture?
3. What would be different about the Bible if it were comprised exclusively of teaching, commands, and instructions? Why do you think God chose to frame so much of His Word in the historical contexts and happenings of its day?
4. Various examples of religious writings were considered for inclusion in the canon of Scripture when it was being formed under God's direction. What qualities do you think made our sixty-six books stand out as being authoritative and inspired?
5. How do you see people getting bogged down in the details of biblical prophecy and missing the larger purposes of it warnings and encouragement? What hope do you derive from what God reveals about coming event? What fear does it give you?
6. Name a recent time when a certain passage of Scripture struck you as being precisely tailored to a current, pressing need, as though God had been listening in your private thoughts and conversations? How do you typically respond to these moments?
7. What have you come to understand about the Word of God in the past few months and years that you didn't know before? What do you still wish you knew? How are you keeping your heart open and available for Him to show you more?

Chapter 2 Questions

Chapter 2 The Assurance of Salvation

1. What are some of the doubts you've felt or experienced as you've thought about the certainty of your salvation? Where do these doubts tend to lead you? What harm have they caused, and what might you be missing by not feeling free to let them go?
2. Which of the quite logical conclusions about *birth* presented in chapter 2 is the most compelling to you in terms of understanding what it means to be "born again" or spiritually reborn? How does this argument alleviate some of your lingering doubts?
3. What are some of the faulty beliefs about the nature of God and His grace that you brought with you from your earliest teachings or feelings about Him? How has His Word challenged and transformed your grasp of who He is and why he loves you?
4. How do you tend to react to the sin in your life, even after being delivered through Christ from its power over you? What would you identify as the main culprits behind your most habitual slip-ups into sinful decisions and rash behaviors?
5. What have been some of your biggest areas of disillusionment with the church? What seems like the best way to respond to these? Why might we expect the church to contain some of the same kind of conflict and difficulty we experience in other relationships?
6. Why do you think God may have led you into saving relationship with Him in a different way than He chose to lead others? Could most of the questions about your salvation simply be distractions keeping you from enjoying the freedom of abundant life?
7. How do you intend to keep growing in your Christian faith, trusting Him with greater surrender, being used by Him for greater avenues of service, desiring that your life reflects His glory no matter what circumstances He allows into your life?

Chapter 3 Questions

Chapter 3 Eternal Security

1. What would be changed in your approach to the average day, if you were totally confident in the efficiency of your salvation in Christ? Why would your human nature see this as an escape clause from responsibility?
2. Why do think God conceived a plan by which human beings could be forgiven of their sins and promised eternity with Him requiring any effort on their part? How does your answer to this question magnify the truth of your eternal security in Christ?
3. What evidence could you present from your own life to confirm the inefficiency of good deeds and good intentions in making you blameless before God? How do you still, even in subtle attempts, try to earn or manipulate your way into God's good graces?
4. *Knowing the power of God as evidenced in Scriptures and taught by the Lord Jesus*, what could possibly be strong enough to prevent Him from accomplishing His plans for your life? What kind of havoc could this confidence wreak on all your fretting and worrying?
5. What is the value of these intervening years between your salvation experience with Christ and your ultimate entrance into glory? Why the necessity for struggle, turmoil, pain, and loss if your righteous position before God has already been established?
6. At what level does the biblical portrait of Christ praying for His disciples touch you? Knowing that Christ has best-for-you expectations, how can you keep yourself and your stubborn will reminded of His intercessory role for you?
7. In addition to His prayers for you, how have you also experienced His attentive love in the form of discipline and chastisement? Why would He bother with such corrective measures if He didn't have plans for you on the other of your disobedience?

Chapter 4 Questions

Chapter 4 What Happens When A Christian Sin

1. Why could the writer of Hebrews say that the disobedience of the Israelites, during the years of wandering in the wilderness clear evidence of their 'unbelief'? (Hebrews 3:19). How is all sin, at some level, ignited by a failure to believe God?
2. In what ways do you conveniently blame many sins and reactions on the integration of others? Why do your responses to other people's irritations or enticements actually reveal more about you than about him?
3. How have you experienced sin affecting you spiritually? Emotionally? Relationally? Even physically? Why is it true that even those sin seem to affect you alone inevitably spread their self-centered position into others' lives as well?
4. What do you do with the guilt that lingers long after your genuine confession and repentance from sin? How is guilty often helpful in keeping you dependent on Christ and sensitive to His Spirit, yet dangerous in stifling your freedom to follow Him?
5. How should you handle those situations where others refuse to forgive the sins you've committed against them, even though you've confessed your wrongdoing and have been forgiven by God? How much more responsibility should you carry for it?
6. What might be God's reasons for not removing certain consequences of your sin, even though He's forgiven you through Christ? Knowing yourself like you do, how would likely relate to God if you weren't left to deal with the messes you made?
7. How do the allures of temptation blind you to the joy, peace, and freedom of living in pure fellowship with God? How can you keep yourself more aware of the enemy's traps and more desirous of God's blessed alternatives?

Chapter 5 Questions

Chapter 5 How to Handle Temptation

1. When have you most felt like giving up in your battle against certain sins and your habitual attraction to them? What have you learned from those moments and their aftermath that can help you stand stronger and more confidently in the future?
2. Does sin more often disappoint you because you've failed in an area of weakness and let yourself down, or because you've grieved the Holy Spirit and transgressed His Word? What does either response reveal about the condition of your heart?
3. Which of your most nagging area of temptation come from your own predisposed desires, as opposed to unexpected spiritual attack? Why are these internal lusts often harder to counteract? How do you build up resistance and momentum against them?
4. What would you say to someone who tried to convince you that the Devil is a figment of your imagination, not a living, deceptive, quite capable enemy of righteousness? How do you know he exists and is at work around you?
5. Has God ever convicted you to abstain from a certain activity, even though it wasn't outrightly sinful on its own? Why can reasonable pleasure—things that are otherwise good and allowable -sometimes become obstacle to your relationship with God?
6. What sins will you likely never be able to avoid except by the deliberate act of flight, by complete separation from the tempting influence? Why is your purity and freedom more important than whatever inconvenience or misunderstanding this may cause?
7. How could you alert yourself every day to be more diligent and watchful in defense of your personal integrity? And how could you move beyond mere sin avoidance toward a more active pursuit of God's best positive choice for your life?

Chapter 6 Questions

Chapter 6 Believers Baptism

1. What are some examples of doctrinal positions that sound reasonable when explained by well-spoken people, and yet still contradict what you know to be the clear teaching of Scripture? How have you been confused by these?
2. What makes the practice of immersion in baptism so descriptive of our salvation experience with Christ, as well as so illustrative of what life thereafter is free to mean? What important principles does baptism teach?
3. How do you continue to experience death to self as you live for Christ and continually draw closer to Him? What have you needed to put to death in recent days? What sill needs to be put to death in order for you to live more freely?
4. What are some of the main indicators of 'new life' in a follower of Christ? How do you experience this renewal on an ongoing basis, and how would you describe its benefits to someone who's unconvinced of what Christ can do?
5. What other biblical commands and expectations (beside baptism) would be much more convenient to avoid, or which seem like they could be handled in a less costly fashion? Why do you think God wants His followers to express their faith so publicly?
6. How have you continued to express your full confidence in the gospel of Jesus Christ as the only means of receiving eternal life? Why is baptism too often one of the last strong pieces of Christian testimony a believer gives to others?
7. Who comes to mind even now as you consider the people in your life who-as far as you can see- remain unwilling to bow their knee to Christ? How might you follow up on this urging, looking for ways to share again with them the message of God's love and grace?

Chapter 7 Questions

Chapter 7 How to Discern the Will of God

1. Which of the six 'myths' outlined in this chapter is the most descriptive of how you've viewed and practiced your own search for God's will through the years? How has this misunderstanding clouded your ability to hear and respond to Him?
2. When was the last time you sensed with a high level of confidence that you were being directly guided by God into a certain decision of course action? What made His guidance feel different from other kinds of counsel and motivation?
3. How have you experienced the *sovereignty* of God in your own life? How have you recognized that His knowledge, plans, and purpose far exceed your own ability to know what to do? What comfort does His sovereignty provide you?
4. In what ways is *obedience* the key to being able to hear from God and respond to the direction He gives you? Where might you be practicing resistance toward God's Word or an unwillingness to follow His expectations? Why does this make His will difficult to discern?
5. How much time do you spend actively listening for God's voice-in private prayer, in Bible readings, in worship, in solemn meditation, in seeking godly counsel? What keeps you from being still and quiet before Him? How difficult do you find waiting on Him to be?
6. Why is *waiting* such an integral part of hearing from God and knowing His will? What makes God's time window for responding to us so much different (usually much longer) than we expect is reasonable? What makes patience so hard to practice in real life?
7. How do you handle the notion that God's will for you may sometimes be marked by the presence of pain, loss, difficulty, or challenge? What enables a Christian to walk through these kinds of life events without losing his or her peace, hope, and contentment?

Chapter8 Questions

Chapter 8 Faith and How to Have It

1. Why do you think God chose to let faith play such a key role in our relationship with Him? What makes faith such an equalizer among all different kinds and classes of people? And yet why do so many consider it restrictive and exclusive?
2. What are presently hoping for? Do you think if you want it bad enough, you're much more assured of seeing it come about? Why is having 'faith in faith—no matter how sincere or sentimental—insufficient to help you attain what you truly need in life?
3. How do you typically respond when the promised realities of God's Word don't seem to be matching the evidence you're seeing on the ground? What does faith look like, sound like, feel like, in those kinds of situation?
4. What passages of Scriptures do you find yourself reading and repeating most often when your faith grows weak or subject to faltering? What do you find specifically find strengthening and encouraging about these reminders from God's Word?
5. How should we react to other believers who say they're questioning their faith in Christ? What are the usual reasons behind these kinds of doubts? Why are spiritual questions often the first place people gravitate to when life becomes hard to piece together?
6. Name someone you know personally who exhibits the kind of Christian faith you'd like to possess. What's the different about him or her from most other people you're around? What could you learn from this person in growing your own faith to a deeper level?
7. In what areas do you find your faith in Christ hindered from being as free and trusting as you'd like? What are the frequent arguments you hear in our head when you're trying to exert greater confidence in God's Word and believe Him with fuller abandon?

Chapter 9 Questions

Chapter 9 How to Be Filled with the Holy Spirit

1. What questions and misunderstanding have you had about the Holy Spirit—who He is, how He operates, what He promises to believers in Christ? Why do you think so many Christians possess an unclear view on the Spirit and His work?
2. *Our bodies are said to be a “temple of the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 6:19).* How does this biblical perspective reorient the way you manage your physical health, the kind of thoughts you allow to occupy your mind, the various behaviors you participate in?
3. How does being filled with the Spirit affect the responsibility you feel toward others and their needs? What kinds of help and benefit can only be given by those who are actively engaged in saving relationship with Christ?
4. What barriers exist in your heart that restrict the free flow of the Holy Spirit’s ministry in your life? What do you think you’re missing by not being sensitive to His voice as you could be, as aware of your conscience’s warnings as available to His leading?
5. What are the marks of truly spiritual worship? Why is depth of visible emotion not the only way to express a heart of praise and awe and dependence on the Lord? When have you been most aware that your worship is pure and genuine?
6. Looking at various pieces of spiritual ‘armor’ mentioned in Ephesians 6:13-18, try to capture in your mind the types of situations where you need to apply these weapons and defenses more diligently. What are some specific, tangible ways to do that?
7. How can you tell when your closeness to God isn’t what it should be—not just a lack of spiritual feeling or fervor, but a disinterest in communing with God or caring about His plans for you? What usually brings these moments about? How do you recapture what you’ve lost?

Chapter 10 Questions

Chapter 10 How to Discover Spiritual Gift

1. Why do we so often discount the value of our own spiritual gifts, while being envious of those gifts that other possess? What do we miss by not being content with what God has given us, by not developing those gifting areas to their fullest extent?
2. Why does pride so often become mixed in with our spiritual gifts, diluting our effective use of them? What are the most noticeable warning signs that indicate you're using your gifts to feed something inside yourself rather than truly serving others?
3. *We are each born with natural talents and strengths that are given by God and make us unique.* How would you differentiate between these types of abilities and those the Bible calls spiritual gifts? How are they distinct in function, in character, in purpose?
4. What have you identified as your own spiritual gift (or gifts)—those supernaturally inspired traits, desires, and capabilities that Gos has ignited in you to help you minister to others and bear witness to the reality of His presence within you?
5. How free are you to exercise these gifts without fear of failure, embarrassment, or insecurity? Why do you think you experience these emotions, if you do? What could you imagine God accomplishing through you if you made your gift more available to Him?
6. What do we learn about our heavenly Father merely by realizing that He delights in giving gifts to His children? How does this knowledge and awareness affect your own desire to place a priority to emulate His loving generous nature in your life?
7. What kind of needs do you see in your church that God has equipped you to meet? How could you be an encouragement to others to use their own spiritual gift more obediently in serving the mission Christ has placed within your church body?

Chapter 11 Questions

Chapter 11 How to Pray with Power

1. How would you define or describe your current personal experience with prayer? What would you say is missing from it? What do you wish your prayer life was more like, and why do you think you haven't reached this level of intimacy and faith in relating with God?
2. How did your earthly father exemplify many of the tender, engaged qualities of God as Father, and how is that a blessing to you in prayer? Or what obstacles do you perhaps bring into prayer from your past experience, struggling to interact with Him in such close relationship?
3. What have you prayed for recently that you have not yet received? How do you try to discern whether your prayer is in the will of God? What might He be trying to achieve in you by either withholding or delaying the answer that you desire?
4. What would help you make prayer more of an unceasing activity in your life (1 Thess 5:17), rather than just an obligatory act to be performed at set times and place—in the morning, during church services, at the dinner hour?
5. *Try to imagine life without prayer.* What would be different if God had not chosen to give us this avenue of access to Him, despite how invisible and mysterious it can often seem? How does seeing prayer as a privilege rather than a compulsion its enjoyment to you?
6. Why is understandable that the lack of forgiveness in your heart toward another person also creates a barrier between you and God in prayer? What specific, known issue of unforgiveness still exist in your life that needs to be gotten out of the way?
7. If you had to measure the percentage of your prayer life, how large a portion would you say is taken up with worship? With intercession for others? With yourself and your own needs? What do these admissions tell you about your motivation and understanding of prayer?

Chapter 12 Questions

Chapter 12 How to Understand the Bible

1. How much time per day do you typically spend in the Word of God? How does that commitment compare with the amount of time you spend on other daily activities and habits? Do you feel like you allow yourself adequate time to understand and learn from it each day?
2. What books, chapters, or sections of the Bible do you find particularly engaging and enriching to you? What is it exactly about those portions of Scriptures that speaks to you so profoundly and personally?
3. What other areas of the Bible do you typically avoid in your reading and study? How might you open yourself to exploring an unfamiliar passage of Scripture, seeing how God could use it to speak to you in unexpected ways?
4. *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4).* What if your desire for the Word was akin to those motivations that draw you to the breakfast, lunch, and dinner table—even to the pantry for in-between-meal snacks?
5. How does meditating on the Word of God differ from the more traditional, very mystical understanding of meditation that most people think of? How has mulling over a single Scripture verse throughout the day yielded new insights for you into what God is saying?
6. Paul said many of the stories and accounts from the Old Testament are meant to be ‘examples’ to us (1Cor.10:6), ways to learn important spiritual lessons. Consider one or two events from the Old Testament, and ponder what you could apply from those?
7. What are some of the specific character traits God is growing and developing in you. (It’s helpful to see areas of growth in ourselves, not just cause for discouragement.) How can you tie your desire for these qualities directly back to the Scripture for inspiration?