

WHERE ARE YOU?

And Other Questions God Asks



Where are You?

'Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"' Genesis 3:9

We are used to asking God questions – "What does my future hold?" "Where should I go?" "What should I do?"... and so many more.

But God also asks us questions – not because He doesn't know the answer, but because thinking about the question and our response forces us to face certain things about ourselves, our relationship with God and so much more. This series we are looking at the questions God asks and how our responses can dramatically alter our lives.

I pray this study blesses you and positively impacts your walk with God and every aspect of your life.

Stay connected.



Day 1

Where are You?

'Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"' Genesis 3:9

When God asked Adam this question, He already knew full well what had transpired with Adam, Eve and the serpent. He also knew where Adam was physically – still in the garden. However, Adam's heart position toward the Lord had shifted.

'And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.' Genesis 3:8

Something that would typically have been a source of joy for Adam and Eve was the presence of God. They regularly fellowshiped with God and had an intimate relationship with Him. When they ate the fruit however, they knew they had broken one of God's commandments and for the first time, they hid themselves from His presence because of the fear and shame they felt.

If we are to be totally honest, that's a very human response when we've done something we should not have – we run away from God's presence because we are reminded of what we did wrong. Yes, we should acknowledge what we have done wrong, but we shouldn't stay in the place of regret and remorse.

The Psalmist reminds us in Psalm 51:17 'The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.' Psalms 51:17

1 John 1:7b also reassures us that, "...the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."

Where are you: Are you running away from or towards God's presence? In spite of their sin, the Lord still made tunics of skin and covered Adam and Eve, but through the blood of Jesus, we are not only covered but cleansed from our sin. Repent and return to God.

Day 2

Where are You? (2)

'Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"' Genesis 3:9

Yesterday we looked at this question in the context of our letting sin keep us away from enjoying intimacy and fellowship with God. But it's not only sin that causes God to ask this question.

Sometimes we don't really know where we are positioned in terms of our identity in Christ. The deception that the devil used to get Eve to take the fruit was that she would be like God (Genesis 3:4). But what she didn't understand was that she was already made in God's image.

'So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.' Genesis 1:27

One of the devil's tools for deception is misrepresenting the position of someone who has accepted Jesus as Lord and savior of his/her life. This tactic is often used in keeping us from accessing the fullness of who we are in Christ.

'...when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.' Ephesians 1:20b-21

'even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...' Ephesians 2:5-6

Christ is seated far above all principalities and powers and by His grace you are seated in Him, therefore you too are far above all principalities and powers – neither the devil, his cohorts nor any circumstance or situation has any authority over you, rather you have authority over them.

Where are you: Are you aware of your spiritual location? And are you exercising the authority that you have been given by Christ? Respond to every negative situation you're facing with this understanding.

Day 3

What Are You Doing Here?

'And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"' 1 Kings 19:9

Elijah had just been used by God to demonstrate some very public victories – fire had fallen from heaven, the prophets of Baal had been executed and rain fell after a three-year drought. Yet, because of Jezebel's threat Elijah became fearful and ran for his life for over forty days. When Elijah got to Mount Horeb the Lord asked him one question: What are you doing here?

'And he said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.'" 1 Kings 19:14

Elijah was overwhelmed and in his mind, he was the only one left to take a stand for God. But God showed Elijah two things wrong about his perspective. First was that God already had a solution to Elijah's view that his life was at stake and gave him specific instructions to follow (1 Kings 19:15-18). Second was to reveal to Elijah he was not alone, God was with him and also had 7000 other people who were taking a stand for Him.

'For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"' Hebrews 13:5b-6

'For with God nothing will be impossible.'" Luke 1:37

What are you doing here: This question forces us to reflect on our circumstances and the perceptions that keep us there. Elijah's perspective was because he had taken his eyes off God and was now focused on himself. Perhaps you sometimes feel isolated, overwhelmed, fearful and exhausted and you can't see a way out. God is reminding us today that we are never alone because He has promised never to leave nor forsake us. He is also reminding us that nothing is impossible with Him. When we keep our eyes fixed on God and His word, it helps give us the proper perspective and hope.

Day 4

Who Do You Say I Am?

'He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"' Matthew 16:15

Jesus often asked His disciples questions and this time He started off asking them who other people said He was. Then He asked what could be perceived as a strange question: Who do You say I am? At this point you'd have expected all the disciples to answer, since they went everywhere with him but only one did. Peter didn't identify Jesus by His name, but by His spiritual identity, meaning he'd seen beyond the natural.

'Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.'" Matthew 16:16-17

'And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"' Luke 18:38

There was also another man in the Bible called Bartimaeus who was blind. Bartimaeus was seated by the road Jesus was passing as He entered the city and he cried out to get the attention of Jesus. The interesting thing was that he didn't call Jesus master, teacher or healer, he called him 'Son of David', the title of the messiah. How is this relevant? Though Bartimaeus was physically blind, he had spiritual vision and discerned that Jesus wasn't just a man with a gift, but the messiah.

It's impossible for us to fully understand who Jesus is just using our mental capacity. We need revelation from the Holy Spirit to begin to comprehend the fullness of who He is.

Who do you say I am: Who is Jesus to you? Is He the one you go to when you need something? Is He healer, teacher, provider? Or is He more? The extent of your revelation of who He is will determine the extent to which you yield to Him.

Day 5

Do You Love Me More Than These?

'So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?"' John 21:15a

When Jesus asked Peter this question it may probably have been shocking to Peter, surely Jesus should know. But when we dissect the question, we see that Jesus didn't say Peter didn't love Him, but did Peter love Him more than 'these'.

We all have 'these' in our lives that may take up the space of Jesus in our hearts. 'These' may not be bad, and could actually be very legitimate pursuits – family, ministry, purpose, spirituality. All very well, but are they replacing Jesus in our hearts?

'And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.'" Luke 10:41-42

Martha was upset with her sister Mary for not assisting her with serving because she was sitting at the feet of Jesus. Martha expected Jesus to rebuke Mary and ask her to join her sister in service. Jesus however knew Mary's heart was drawn to Him so His response reveals what He deems really important and what should also be our priority. Activity should never replace relationship. It is possible to get so caught up in working for God that we forget to walk with God. But it's that fellowship that should form the foundation of everything, because that's what will give us staying power.

Do you love me more than these: Pause and reflect that one thing and one thing only is needed – your love for Him. When your heart is focused on loving Jesus, your motivation for spending time in prayer, Bible study, etc. won't be for results (healing, anointing, progress, etc.) but simply because you love and you want to know Him.

Imagine Jesus is asking you this question today: "Do you love me more than these?" Ask the Holy Spirit to examine your heart deeply and answer this question for you. Be honest with Him and ask for forgiveness and the grace to return your heart's focus to Him if the answer is no. If it's yes ask for more of Him. There are deeper depths and greater dimensions of Him that you are yet to experience.



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