



IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

By Ruth Conard

Questions can be life-changing - like, “Will you marry me?” Or, “Why are you applying for this job?” And, “Do you really want to follow Christ?” Learning to ask good questions is an art. Some of us only make statements and talk about ourselves; the other person sits in silence. Asking good questions is an art.

God is the best when it comes to asking questions. God’s questions fascinate me, especially as we enter a New Year, a New Season of life. Through the years, the Eternal One’s sensitive, insightful questions have pinned me down as it were, made me weep, encouraged me to make decisions, and given me great hope.

Consider three questions for this New Year. First, there’s the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2). Perfect surroundings, perfection everywhere with the holy and loving God right with them. But, they decided to bow to the lie of Satan and then hid in their shame and guilt. God came to walk with them, as usual, and this was His first question: “Where are you?” (Genesis 3.9) God IS love, and in His love, He was missing His very first children. It wasn’t, of course, that He didn’t know where they were, but He gave them an opportunity to respond.

How will you respond today to this question of God: “Where are you?” Only you know what the honest response is to this loving inquiry of God. Your Creator desires your company. There’s no one else on this planet like you - unique, beloved you.

The other two questions come from the riveting, tragic journey of Hagar in Genesis 16:7-8. Hagar was an Egyptian young woman who became the mother of the Arabs. She was kicked out of the family tent by the woman she served and trusted, into a vast, cruel desert. But, God found her! He asked Hagar, “Where did you come from?” “Where are you going?” Hagar could tell Him where she had come from. But where she was going? Absolutely no idea!

My friend, these are still God’s loving questions to you and me. God chose for us to be here at this time! Maybe you don’t want to think about where you came from...too much hurt, too much shame. Yet, it’s your story, and God was and is with you always. He wants you to know He accepts your journey and wants to share it with you. And, where you are going - God also has good thoughts about that, just as He did for Hagar. So, lean into Him - His love, His presence, His promises. The best is yet to come!

VERSES TO READ

Psalm 139:3-6
Psalm 23

Proverbs 3:5-6
John 10:1-5

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- *Where am I* at this point in my life? How do I feel about my relationship with God and with others?
- *Where have I come from?* How had God encouraged me over the past few months? For what can I be thankful?
- *Where am I going?* What encourages me to trust God more for the future?

PRAYER TO PRAY

Loving Father, Thank you for being so interested in me, that you extend these questions to me today. Some of the answers I do not have, God, but You already know that. Thank you for Your scriptures that show me You are my Good Shepherd and You will faithfully guide me. I want to follow You. I do believe You will give me hope and confidence for what I face in this new year of life. In Jesus’ Name, amen.