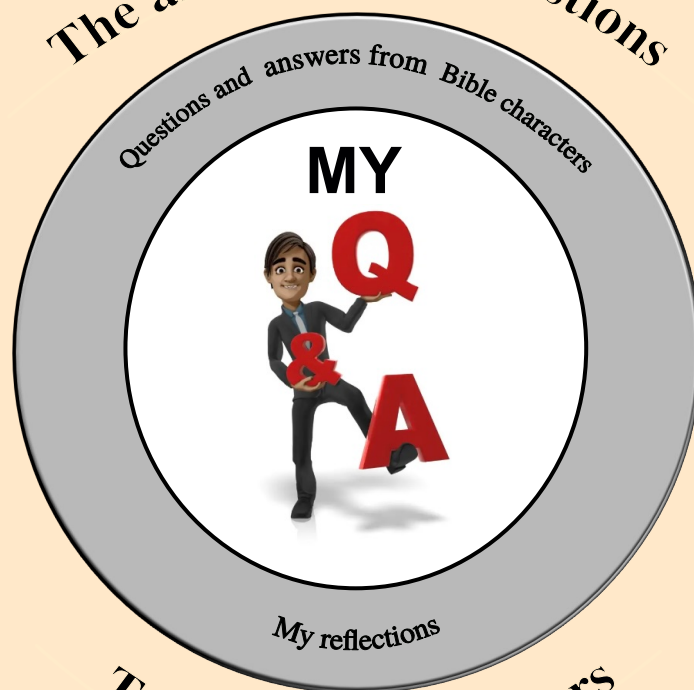




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The art of asking questions



To get the right answers

“The important thing is not to stop questioning; curiosity has its own reason for existing. Never lose a holy curiosity.”
(Albert Einstein)

“If I had an hour to solve a problem and my life depended on the solution, I would spend the first 55 minutes determining the proper question to ask...for once I know the proper question, I could solve the problem in less than five minutes”
(Albert Einstein)

"It's not that I'm so smart. "But I stay with the questions much longer" (Albert Einstein)

Don't listen to the person who has the answers, listen to the person who has the questions.” (Albert Einstein)

“He who has a **why** to live for can bear almost any **how**.” (Friedrich Nietzsche)

Introduction

Questions? In this, the first MyQ&A paper, I'm interested in the importance of asking the right questions. These are central to human exploration, investigation, and to find the unknown - the truth. Children are question-asking gurus, and we should never say to a child “that's a silly, or a wrong question!”

What are good questions? Well, they are the outcome of good thinking, critical thinking, which is the ability to think about thinking, to challenge our own thought processes, beliefs, values, and actions. The core elements of critical thinking are investigation, interpretation, and evaluation. So, good questions are open questions that cannot be answered with a simple “yes” or “no”, such as Rudyard Kipling's, ‘I keep Six Honest Serving Men’:

I keep six honest serving-men

(They taught me all I knew);

Their names are What and Why and When

And How and Where and Who.

The elements of critical thinking lead to critical questions. So, questions may be *investigative*, *interpretive*, or *evaluative*. Specifically, *investigative* or exploratory questions determine what are the facts. Then *interpretive* questions seek to understand the facts, explain what the facts mean that can be supported with evidence from the facts. *Evaluative* questions seek to determine the importance of the facts.

For adults, unanswered questions keep them awake at night. Nobody likes an unanswered question. Nobody. So, why did the Lord not answer any of Job's questions and responded by asking many more of His own? Similarly, Jesus asked 307 questions but only answered three of the 183 questions that were put to Him? ([Copenhaver](#)).

Again, why is the Godhead seemingly reluctant to answer our questions? Is it because God's questions are more important than ours? Or, is it because most questions are silly, bad, or wrong, with obvious answers. Or, are some not genuine enquirers like journalists whose questions are more about getting a good headline rather than the truth? Or, rather than question sovereignty, should we not first answer sovereignty's questions?

In this the paper, then, my focus is on questions asked, and answers given, by Bible characters. We'll look at questions asked by God, Jesus Christ, the Serpent, and men. Indeed, humans ask questions because they do not have the answers. On the other hand, God asks questions of us, not because He doesn't know the answers, but in order to direct us to those answers.

All in all, it will be impossible to miss the good questions that God, Jesus, and some men ask. But, what will the answers be like? That's an evaluative question, and I'll give my reflections.

Reference

Copenhaver, M. B., Jesus Is the Question: The 307 Questions Jesus Asked and the 3 He Answered. Abingdon Press, 2014, Kindle Edition.