

Questions That We May Be Asking— Questions That We Should Be Asking

PART ONE

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A young Christian could have many questions. They may continually ask, “How is this and how is that? What is required of me; why does God do certain things, and why is the devil allowed to do so many things?”

We might wonder why Satan was let loose to torment people, when God has all power and authority in Heaven and earth; why would God allow the devil to go around and torment people.

We may have met many people who have asked the same question. They cannot understand about this personal devil, who is going around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Satan is allowed to cause problems for us when we get off the straight and narrow path.

A shepherd always has a dog when he goes out with his sheep, because when they get in danger, or wander off from the others, the dog is sent in search of them to bite their nose and bring them back to the fold. The business of the dog is to chase them back.

Satan is God’s dog—so to speak—when God’s people are exposed to human harm, or wander onto the wide path that leads to destruction. They would then be in danger of greater trouble; God, in His great mercy, allows Satan to attack them and chase them back to Himself.

However, the only people that Satan can touch are those who are living according to their own wisdom, their own power and strength; those who have put aside God’s wisdom, God’s strength and substituted their own.

Satan’s power is done, until we start to use our own wisdom and trust in it or in any human power. Then God allows Satan to chase us badly, and we are in one trouble after another. When this is our situation, we can be sure that we are holding on to our “oil and meal.” However, when we get rid of that, we will not have much trouble with Satan’s attacks. Satan can bark at our heels, but he cannot do us any harm.

At times, we may have been asking the wrong questions, especially at the beginning of our Christian life: — “What am I supposed to do; what is required of

me; how can I get God’s blessings; how can I get the faith that I need?”

Sometimes the more we try to find out the answer to these questions, the deeper we get into the mud. A Christian only needs to ask three questions. As we ask these three questions and find out the answers to them, it will end all our troubles.

It does not matter whether it be saint or sinner, if we ask these three questions and learn the answers, it will effectively end our troubles at once, spiritual, physical, financial, and home troubles. It will enable us to be conquerors over our sins; it will lift our burdens, supply our needs, and protect our bodies.

The first question is: WHAT HAS JESUS CHRIST DONE FOR ME? What has His work on Calvary’s Cross done for each one of us? That is the first important question to be answered—not what am I to do but what HAS Jesus Christ done for us on that Cross.

It is not a question of what we are to do at all, but what someone else has already done for us; what does His Blood mean to us at this time? God has not changed, neither has His Son, Jesus Christ. Their power has not diminished, so we do not need to ask any question in that regard.

If we are asking these questions, we are just like a person trying to pull themselves over a fence by their bootstraps. We are truly on the fence, and there is no chance of getting over ourselves—Jesus Christ is the only solution. He will get us out of our difficulties. So, we should only consider what Jesus has done for us on the Cross; that is to be our first question, and the Bible has the answer to that question.

Satan tries to call our attention to what we think we should do. God always calls our attention to what Jesus Christ has done, as revealed by all of Paul’s letters. When we consider the Bible as a whole, we will find that God has placed great importance on this, types of Jesus Christ and His Cross, from Genesis to Revelation.

When the children of Israel were in bondage in Egypt, they were told to apply the blood of a little lamb to their doors. When they were bitten with the poisonous serpents in the wilderness and were at the gates of the pit and at the jaws of death, they were told to erect a type of the Cross of Jesus Christ—a brazen serpent on a pole. As a result, they found peace and salvation.

Cornelius tried everything to find peace and salvation; but finally, God told him to send for Peter, who would speak words unto him by which he and his house would be saved. Cornelius said: *“Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.”* (Acts 10:33)

He intended to do everything that God would tell them to do. Peter did not tell them to do anything, but he began to tell them about Jesus Christ and His work

on the Cross: *“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: Who went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him....Whom they slew and hanged on a tree: Him God raised up the third day, and shewed Him openly;.....To Him give all the prophets witness, that through His name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins.”*

This is a fact, and the moment we believe it, we will receive the benefits of it.

“While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all of them which heard the word.”

The two who were going from Jerusalem to Emmaus were worried, burdened, and downcast. Everybody thought it was a sensible way to be. As they told Jesus about the case, He began to tell them how important that work was, how necessary it was for Jesus Christ to suffer and die as He did. As they listened to His words, they had to admit: *“Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way and while he opened to us the Scriptures?”* (Luke 24:32)

They did not pray to have that burden lifted; it just fled away as they listened to the story concerning the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross.

There was a man who sat in the streets of Lystra who was impotent in his feet, and had never walked one step, even though he was a full-grown man. He listened to Paul as he said, “You are a well, man,” and he believed that word, and because of that belief, he leaped and walked. He did not question how he was to be healed, how he was going to be able to get up on his feet; he just considered what Jesus Christ had done for him, and then he was healed and began to leap and walk on the authority of God’s Word.

Paul was on his way to Damascus when the Lord appeared to him and he immediately asked: “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?” He thought that there was something he had to do to change his condition.

“Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.....And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightiest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.” (Acts chapter 9)

Just think about it! He did not have to do one thing, except receive something through that great work on the Cross; so, we are told: *“Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.”* (Isaiah 53:4)

That means every sin, every sorrow and disease because according to Young’s Translation, we read: *“Surely our sickness he hath borne, And our pains, He hath carried them, And we—we have esteemed Him plagued, Smitten of God, and afflicted. And he is pierced, for our transgressions, Bruised for our iniquities, The chastisement of our peace is on Him, And by his bruise there is healing to us. All of us like sheep have wandered, Each to his own way we have turned, And Jehovah hath caused to meet on him, the punishment of us all.”*

This is the same story which was given in all these cases.

If a family needed a large sum of money—perhaps they owed three months’ rent, and the landlord was telling them that they had to get out, and they were in a terrible situation. If the husband was unemployed, and everything was going wrong---the landlord was ready to put them out, and they had nowhere to go except a homeless shelter. They may be worried sick, burdened almost to death, because they could not meet their expenses and deliver themselves out of trouble.

If someone knocked at their door, they might go to the door trembling and fearful, thinking perhaps it was the landlord coming to put them out on the street. Their faces would be so sad, one would think that they were on their way to a funeral.

However, if a person who owed the husband a large sum of money finally paid him, and he was able to pay the rent up to date, buy all the clothes that were needed, and they could live worry free for a while, they would feel like entirely new people.

They would begin to hug each other; they would look and act like totally different people.

Why? Because they were able to pay that debt that burdened them and buy the food and clothing that they needed.

Well now, Jesus Christ bore our sins, sorrows, and diseases and we DO NOT HAVE TO BEAR THEM. His work on the Cross has made us F R E E, just as free as they were after the rent was paid in full.

Suppose the wife would not have believed her husband when he told her that someone had given him a large sum of money that was owed to him, and would have said, “I do not believe you.” She would have been just as worried and just as burdened.

However, the moment she believed, that burden was lifted.

In just the same way the guilt and power of sin is lifted, when we really believe we are pardoned and cleansed, because it was born on the Cross; also, every

pain, ache, and disease, every cough and cold were borne there, every sorrow, every burden, and all poverty.

All these things will fade away when we really believe the story of the Cross, just as that woman heard the story of her husband and believed it, that he had received money enough to cover all their needs.

Our great trouble can be that we only believe half of the story. The work of Jesus Christ has placed God and all that He is, has, or can do, at our side and service. He is at our side for our service, without money or without price.

Whoever believes that the same God, Who made Heaven and earth, that loved us so much that He gave us His best gift, when we were without strength and ungodly, without merit; that such a God is for us, will certainly be impressed with the significance of the fact that who could be against them.

“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.” (Romans 5:6)

“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall he not with Him also freely give us all things?” (Romans 8:31-32)

That is the sweetest news that mortal ears could ever hear. That is the answer to the first question. God is as much for our use as our right hand. If we are walking along and there is something in the way that we trip over, we immediately thrust out our hand to save ourselves.

There are constantly in the air little particles of dust, and God has given us for protection the eyelids, and as soon as anything touches the eye those lids fall; they drop over the eye to protect it; they drop automatically, involuntarily. If anyone puts their hand in front of our eyes we blink; it is done involuntarily. Why? Those eyelids are at our service to protect our eyes from dust or any foreign substance.

Well now, God is just as much at our service as our eyelids, as our hands; He is for our specific use. This has been made possible through the Blood of Jesus Christ.

Now the second question which we need to ask ourselves is WHAT IS GOD ABLE AND WILLING TO DO?—not what we can do. Our time is to be completely occupied with what He can do and what He is willing to do. We are left out in the cold altogether, and the longer and more completely we are left out, the better it will be for us.

We are not to ask a question about ourselves; all the questions we are to ask are to be about God and His

willingness and ability. We are to be a dead loss: we are not to be concerned in the transaction at all. We are to forget all about ourselves and are to be occupied with what God has done through Jesus Christ, His Son, what God is able and willing to do.

We should meditate on these things. No matter what kind of a mess we are in, what burden or sorrow we have, the very moment we begin to meditate upon God and what He is able to do, the mess will begin to disappear.

David said: *“I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.”* (Psalms 16:8)

“For he shall pluck my feet out of the net.” (Psalm 25:15)

The Lord gives us a wonderful encouragement to look to Him: *“Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.”* (Isaiah 45:22)

God is seeking to teach us here to be occupied completely with what He is, not with what we are at all, but what God has and can do. The people in the Bible, who were successful in dealing with God, had only one question which always was: “What is God able to do?” *“For with God all things are possible.”* (Mark 10:27; Matthew 19:26)

Why not? He created the universe. Jehoshaphat said very little comparatively speaking, and yet there was great weight in his words, because he acknowledged the ability of God: *“O Lord God of our fathers, art not thou God in Heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might so that none is able to withstand thee?”* (2 Chronicles 20:6)

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