



June 2010

Dear Friend of Light of the Word,

“Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, ‘Where are you?’” (Genesis 3:9)

One of the great moments in your life is when God begins to ask you questions.

Think for a moment about all the questions we ask God—Why did I lose my job? Why did I get divorced? Why did things have to go the way they have gone? Why am I still single? Why am I sick? The list can go on and on, can’t it? We question God about a million things, and it’s usually out of anger. The fact that we are allowed to even question God blows my mind! Think about it—who are we to question God about anything? Romans 9:20-21 says, *“But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, ‘Why have you made me like this?’ Does not the potter have power over the clay . . .?”*

When God begins to ask YOU questions, it’s about trying to get to the heart of the matter. It’s not in anger, but out of concern that God questions you in your life. Sometimes God asks you, “Where are you?” as He did when Adam was hiding in the Garden of Eden. Now, God of course knows where you live and what you drive and what you are doing at any given moment. But, when He asks “Where are you?” it’s in regards to your relationship with Him. Maybe you haven’t been communicating with the Lord. Maybe you are starting to backslide—are you missing prayer, church, or being in His Word?

When God asked Eve, “What have you done?” He knew she had blown it—He knew that she had listened to Satan and had sinned against Him. But God questioned her because He wanted her to confess what she had done and take responsibility for her actions. Interestingly, Eve blamed the serpent for her actions! When God questions us regarding what we have done, it’s because He is getting to the root of our sin problem—our rebellion. The Lord wants us to confess our sins—to take responsibility for our actions so that we can be restored and built up in the Lord. Have you committed a sin that you have not confessed? Are you blaming others or Satan for your sin problem instead of taking responsibility for it yourself?

In another passage, God asked Cain, “Where is your brother?” Now, God knew that Cain had killed his brother Abel. But when Cain replied to God he said, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” God questioned Cain in regards to his relationship to others—specifically his brother Abel. Cain hated his brother and was envious of him. And because Cain allowed his bitterness to grow, he ended up killing his brother. When God questions you, “Where is your brother?” He is asking you about your relationship with others. How’s your family doing? How are your friends? Are you relating well with your family, your friends, your co-workers, your neighbors, and those in your church? Or are you filled with bitterness, hostility, hard-heartedness, and contempt towards others? God wants us to be in right relationships with others. We are to be loving, kind, compassionate and tender-hearted towards others. We cannot be what God wants us to be if we are not right with other people.

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God asked Elijah, "What are you doing here?" After a great spiritual victory, Elijah was confronted by Jezebel (who had it in for him), and out of panic fled to a cave 40 miles away. In that cave, Elijah was depressed and was desiring to commit suicide. When God asked Elijah what he was doing there, Elijah replied with despondency that he was the only one who worshipped God. But that was not a true statement. God made sure Elijah knew that there were 7,000 people who had not bowed their knee to the foreign god. In other words, Elijah was not thinking straight. He was not where he was supposed to be. God had called him to minister to His people and Elijah had run away and had allowed fear and wrong thinking to rule his actions rather than God's Word. I believe that sometimes in our lives God will say to us, "What are you doing here?" You are messing around trying to find peace and joy in the wrong place. You are searching for contentment or excitement, but you are looking in the wrong place. Maybe you are bummed and you are in a bar. Maybe you are in marital difficulties and you are flirting with your co-worker. Maybe God has called you to a certain place and ministry but you are at an entirely different place.

The greatest of all questions is when God asks you, "What did you do with My Son?" You see, it's not about whether you are a Baptist, a Methodist, a Lutheran, a Catholic, or any other denomination, it's about your relationship with Jesus Christ. Remember when Pontius Pilate asked the angry mob, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" The people responded, "Let Him be crucified!" What is your answer to this important question?

When God begins to question you, don't be afraid. He is asking as a Father who cares tenderly for His child. Today, is God asking you:

"(your name), where are you?"


"(your name), what have you done?"

"(your name), where is your brother?"

"(your name), what are you doing here?"

"(your name), what have you done with my Son?"

In Christ,


Pastor Steve