

Questions & Answers for the Plain & Simple Series

Tomorrow May Be Too Late

Chapter 1

1) Have you ever felt like Sally and asked yourself, “Is God really involved in my life? Does He really care? What is His purpose in creating me?” If you have, explain what conclusion you came to.

2) Why aren't we able to understand God's plans and purposes for our lives?

God's plans will be incomprehensible to us until we actually come to “know” Him (have a relationship with Him). The Bible tells us, however, if we diligently search for Him with all our hearts, we *will* find Him and He *will* give us the understanding we need.

3) What is God's main purpose for our lives?

He wants to have a personal, intimate relationship with us so that He can, first of all, reproduce His nature—His Life—in us. Then, we can pass along His Love and His Life to others. Unfortunately, this doesn't happen automatically. He has given us the free choice to either accept His plans and His purpose for our lives or to reject His offer.

4) Name some of the attributes of God that Dave shared with Sally.

The Lord is eternal, all powerful, omniscient and has unconditional Love.

5) Explain how sin and self-will entered our universe.

Lucifer, God's archangel, became prideful and desired to have the authority God Himself had. In Isaiah 14:14 he said, "I will be like the most high." He wanted to do his own will instead of the Father's will. That way, he could make himself out to be "like" God.

6) God created man with a free will and put him in a perfect environment. What, then, caused man to blow it and to sin? Was that a surprise to God?

Again, man desiring his own will over and against God's will, is what caused him to sin. But, even this, did not surprise the Lord. He knew man would choose his own will as a result of Satan's promptings. But, even though Satan meant man's fall for evil, God has turned it around and has instilled His own plan of redemption. For those who heed God's call will be saved.

7) What is the meaning of life and where should we look to discover that meaning?

Only by looking "upward" can we align ourselves with God's purpose and find the true meaning of life. Having a personal relationship with the Lord and being able to pass along His Love gives our own lives meaning and purpose.

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Chapter 2

1) The Bible claims to be inspired by God, the Holy Spirit. Read 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Romans 15:4. In your own words, can this be proven? How?

2) Why is it so important to come to God and His Word with an open heart?

All of the logical evidence in the world that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God and can be trusted, will be of no use if doubt rules our thinking. We must be open to searching for new truths and open to changing our minds. Someone once said, "the only barrier to truth is the presumption that you already have it."

3) Give a brief history of the Bible. Who wrote it? What does it say? What does it lay out?

The Bible (66 books) was penned by 40 different guys over a period of 1000 years and yet, it is an integrated whole. It speaks of one God; one plan of salvation; and one moral standard throughout. Every book lends credence to the other 65 books. Only the supernatural hand of God could have guided this.

4) What is the “message” of the Bible?

The message of the Bible is the creation of man; his fall into sin; and God’s plan of salvation through the death and resurrection of His son, Jesus Christ.

5) Very few books survive a century, let alone two thousand years! What is the Bible’s secret? Who are some of the famous men throughout history who have been influenced by it?

The Bible’s secret is that it is not only the inerrant Word of God, but also that it will be implemented by the Spirit of God. Some of the famous men in history that have been influenced by it are: Robert E. Lee, Woodrow Wilson; Wm. Gladstone, etc.

6) What exactly is prophecy? Why is it so very important? Can you name three prophecies concerning Jesus’ birth, His Life or His crucifixion? Why are these important to you? Why do these prophecies prove the Bible’s accuracy? (See pages 36-38)

Prophecy is “telling the future in advance.” (Daniel 12:9-10) It’s important because as the events actually occur, it confirms the inerrancy of the Bible.

7) Israel became a nation on May 14, 1948. Why is this, such an important feat?

Even though Israel as a nation rejected Christ as its Messiah, God promised them that He would bring them back to the land of Abraham. No nation in history that has been completely dispersed, has ever returned to it’s homeland.

8) Why is finding “secret codes” in the Bible another proof that it is authentic? What are these secret codes and why are they so important? Give an example.

Secret codes are hidden messages that can only be deciphered now with our modern day computers. These hidden messages are important because they validate the Bible's supernatural origin and inspiration. The Bible tells us that "at the end" of time, knowledge will increase. (Daniel 12:4) An example of a "secret code" is God's plan of redemption, hidden under the genealogy of Genesis.

9) Did all of the prophecies in the Bible foretelling Christ's first coming happen as was foretold? What does this prove? What does this say about his second coming?

It proves the Bible is the inerrant Word of God and that all the prophecies having to do with His second coming will also come to pass exactly as foretold.

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Chapter 3

1) Many claim that Jesus was only a "good prophet" and a "good man." As best you can, explain exactly who Jesus is and what is so important about Him.

Jesus is God, the second person of the Trinity that makes us the God-head, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This is validated in John 10:30 when Jesus makes this statement: "I and My Father are one." The Jews who heard this were incensed and wanted to kill Him. He had just claimed to be God. (John 10:30-33)

2) Why is the deity of Christ so very important?

Belief that Jesus Christ is God is what divides the true Christians from the cults and the non-believers who only believe He was a "good prophet." (John 1:1-5; 14:9-11)

3) How would you answer Bobbie's question: "Why is it necessary for God Himself to become a man?"

Because Adam and Eve (the first man and woman) blew it and their fellowship with God was broken, there was no hope for reconciliation. Only the shedding of innocent blood will cover our sins. Therefore, only the Blood of God Himself (in the man of Jesus Christ) would suffice. Only through the dying of Jesus can we ever have the hope of being reunited with God.

4) Why is there such a 'war' going on over the souls of men?

Satan has been deceiving man from the very beginning. Throughout history, he has been there stirring up dissension. He wants to thwart God's plan of reconciliation.

5) Does God really know each of us individually and does He really care about who we are and what we do? Write some Scriptures out that prove His Love.

6) Name the four different ways that we can *prove* God loves us.

- 1) He says so in His Word (see *Way of Agape*)
- 2) He sent Jesus to die for our sins (1 John 4:9-10; Romans 5:8)
- 3) He unites our spirits with the Holy Spirit. His Spirit is like the guarantee or the down payment of what He promises to do in the future.
- 4) As a result, we can experience God's supernatural Life ourselves—His Love, wisdom and power flowing through us

7) In your own words, can you define God's Love. (1 Corinthians 13)

8) What are the two sides of God's Love?

One side of God's Love is a longsuffering and merciful Love. The other side, is a strict, firm and discipline Love.

9) What, then, is the meaning and the purpose of our lives here on earth?

Personally knowing and then, passing along God's Love. Being conformed into His image so that we produce His "fruit"– fruit that will bring Him glory.

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Chapter 4

1) Caroline's question is a good one: "In what way are we made in God's image?" How would you have answered her?

Our entire "self" is created to reflect the image of God (our thoughts, our emotions, our desires and our actions). We are to manifest His character in Love, patience, kindness, forgiveness and faithfulness.

2) Why is it so important for us to know that we are created in God's image?

Being created in God's image becomes the basis for a healthy self-worth—a person of worth to God. It allows us to feel positive about ourselves and what God does through us. It's not *self*-esteem, but *God*-esteem. We like what we see Him doing through us.

3) Can you simply define what exactly our spirit, our soul and our heart are?

Our soul– the immaterial part of us– is the instrument through which we have self-consciousness and self-awareness. It consists of our own thoughts, emotions and desires. Our

spirit is the channel through which we have God consciousness (communication and fellowship with Him). Our heart is the actual place where God's Life (His Love, wisdom and power) is created, started and brought into new existence by God's Spirit. It's not our old heart simply changed or renewed, but a totally new heart, something that wasn't there before.

4) How is the "natural" man different from the "spiritual" man?

The spiritual man has God's Spirit in his heart directing his thoughts, emotions and desires (his soul). This believer has set aside what he wants, feels and desires and has chosen to follow what God wants. God's Spirit has given him the authority to choose to do this and the power to do accomplish His will in his life.

The soulish man (natural man), however, has no other choice but to follow what he thinks, feels and desires. There is no other power source within him to produce something different.

5) In a Christian, there are two different life forces. What are they and what is it that determines which life will be lived in his soul?

The two life forces in a Christian are God's Life in our hearts and our own natural life in our souls. Our moment-by-moment choices are the determining factor as to whose life will be lived. A carnal Christian will choose to follow the flesh; a spiritual Christian will choose to follow the Spirit.

6) How do others know we are Christians? What is the proof that we belong to God? Can a carnal Christian do this? Why / why not?

John 13:35 tells us that others will know we are Christians by our "love." That's the proof that we do, indeed, belong to God. A carnal Christian cannot love like this because he has quenched God's real Love by his fleshly choices.

7) Why is it so important to forgive those who have trespassed against us?

It's important to unconditionally forgive those who have hurt us because then God says He will forgive us. Also, by unconditionally forgiving, God's Spirit will not be quenched or blocked in our hearts by unforgiveness. (Matthew 6:14-15)

8) Before we can choose to forgive that other person, we must first deal with the hurts, rejection, blows, etc. they have imposed upon us. How do we do that? Do we just push these things down or do we vent them. What then?

We must learn to give our hurts, resentments, bitterness, rejection etc., to God. He is the One who will take them "as far as the east is from the west." (Psalm 103)

9) Why is it so important not to "judge" people and their actions?

God is the only One qualified to judge. He is the only One who really knows the complete truth. Scripture says if we judge others; God, then, will judge us by that same standard.

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Chapter Five

1) Many suggestions were given in the book for a definition of "faith." What is yours?

It's not only hoping *in* God, it's relying *upon* Him. It's trust, confidence, belief, assurance and expectance that God will do all He says He will.

2) How do you know personally that God is faithful? Can you give an example in the Bible. And, can you also give a personal example.

Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son, Isaac, shows Abraham's trust in God's faithfulness.

3) What are some of the ways we can gain confidence and trust in God?

- 1) Ask Him for more faith
- 2) Daily, read and meditate on His Word
- 3) Do what God has told you to do and see what He does

4) Explain how faith can be being sure of what we hoped for” and “certain of what we do not see?”

We must trust God with all the unseen issues of the day, while at the same time, knowing that what we hope for in the future also is in His hands.

5) Why is 1 John 1:9 so important to apply in our walks of faith?

It's important to get rid of yesterday's baggage in order to have faith in God today. If we hold on to the baggage, we will quench God's Spirit and not be able to have faith.

6) Why is it that some of the people who have committed the most grievous sins in the past are able to have the strongest faiths today?

They have been forced to be honest with God (and repented before Him) and thus, have experienced His love in a remarkable way. (Luke 7:36-47)

7) What is the ultimate goal of faith?

To grow into a deeper love-relationship and intimacy with God so as to be prepared to rule and reign with Him in the coming Millennial Kingdom and ultimately, eternity.

8) God's ways are not our ways and His timing is not our timing, so how can we trust Him with our lives?

Experience helps us realize His trustworthiness and that He *does* keep His Word. This allows us to trust Him with our wills and our lives.

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Chapter Six

1) Just like Dave asked Ada, what personally gives you hope? What do you look forward to when you get up in the morning? What gets you excited?

2) Why is hope so important?

Our lives run on hope. Without hope we perish. Hope is what helps us get through the trials, what allows us to go on and what helps sustain our lives.

3) What's the danger of putting our hope in people—our friends, family, children, etc.,? What hope is secure and gives us a reason to go on? What is the means by which we can have this kind of hope?

Our friends, family and children will always let us down, they're human. Only hope in Christ will give us stability—the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. The only means by which this can happen is our faith and trust in Christ.

4) What does the term the “blessed hope” refer to?

It refers to the hope we have that one day Christ will return and we who are alive will go to be with Him forever.

5) Specifically, what are some of the other future events that will bring us hope?

First of all, there is the Rapture, which is the surprise catching up of the saints to be taken to heaven without dying. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52)

6) When will this Rapture occur? What must we do to be ready? Who are the ones who will go?

Matthew 25:13 says this could happen at any moment. Being “ready” means being prepared (being sanctified, faithful and persevering) to meet Him in person. The ones that will go with Him are His own true followers—those who are born again, those who are overcomers and those who have remained faithful to the end.

7) Describe Christ's first and second coming. How are they different?

In His first coming, Christ was in a redemptive role. He came as the “Lamb of God” who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). He came the first time as a Savior. (Isaiah 53:2-9)

In His second coming, He will come as the “Lion of the tribe of Judah” (Rev.5:5). He will come as the King of kings and Lord of lords and every knee will bow (Rev. 5:9-11; 19:11-16)

8) After Christ returns for the second time, the Millennium will begin. Describe the Millennium.

It’s a time where Christ will reign upon the earth for a thousand years. Satan will be bound and the Jewish temple will be re-built. We will have resurrected bodies. (Lu.24:39)

9) What happens at the end of the Millennium?

There will be the Great White Throne Judgment for all of the unbelievers and then, eternity (or heaven) will begin. This is the time where Satan will be cast into hell, so sin will be eradicated and death destroyed. (1 Corinthians 15:25-28) At this point, there will be a new heaven and a new earth. (Revelation 21:1-4)

10) What will heaven be like?

It will be a place where all our hopes and dreams will finally come to pass. Heaven is the place where we can reach our highest potential.

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Chapter Seven

1) When people talk about the ‘gospel’ what exactly do they mean?

They usually mean that Christ was crucified, buried and on the third day rose from the grave in a physical body. He ascended into heaven and is now at the right hand of God the Father. (1 Corinthians 15)

2) What are some of the outrageous claims that Christianity can make and no other religion can?

- 1) All true Christians will be raised with Christ when He comes back for the second time.
- 2) We receive a brand new nature when we become a believer.

3) We are able to have an intimate and personal relationship with Christ when we ask Him into our heart.

3) Were there any witnesses to Christ's resurrection which lend proof to it actually happening? Name them.

Hundreds saw Christ being raised in a physical body.

Mary of Magdalene saw Jesus outside the tomb after He was raised. (John 20:11-16, 18)

The disciples saw Him. (John 20:19-20)

Doubting Thomas saw Him eight days later. (John 20:24-28)

Many others saw Him in His resurrection body. (1 Corinthians 15:6-8)

Then, over 500 of His followers saw Him.

Later, He was seen by James and then, the apostles again.

Finally, He was seen by Paul, the Apostle, on the Damascus Road and John on Patmos Island. (Acts 9:1-6)

4) After the Resurrection, even though the Disciples recognized Christ, what was different about Him?

He had a body that could be touched and felt, but He could also walk through locked doors. He had a glorified body.

5) Will we be able to recognize each other when we get to heaven?

Jesus was! If our bodies will be like His, yes, we will be able to touch and feel each other, know each other's voice and recognize each other.

6) What then is our life on earth all about?

It's a 'dress rehearsal' for the big event in heaven. It's like the training ground or the proving ground for the real production.

7) How close are we to all of this happening?

Very soon! Many of the prophecies about His second coming have been fulfilled.

8) What are we to do?

Always have on a “kingdom perspective.” Our actions on earth will determine our authority, our responsibilities and our positions in heaven.