

The Power of Questions

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Seems like there have been a lot of questions coming to the surface lately. Some of these questions are saturated in fear, because we don't know the true nature of God; while others stem from hearts that want to know God for who he really is. The songs we sing, the prayers we pray, the messages we hear - all of this information, if we pay attention, will reveal the source of the questioning, and should then give rise to more of our own!

Recently, I found myself sitting in a church I had never attended before. The worship was musically quite nice, but as it ended, I had a question on my heart. *"Why do we really sing the songs we do? Why are we singing, crying out, or praying to God as though he were distant?"* Then, I read an article that a friend had written. In it, she brought up a few questions of her own: *"How much of what we believe is from what someone else has told us to believe?"* And, *"Where do I find my value, my worth, and my protection?"* These are powerful questions worth being asked and answered, but I wonder why more people aren't asking them?

Seems like we are conditioned from early in life not to question – don't question what you're taught in school, don't question what adults teach you, don't question what you hear in church... just don't question. Now, I'm not saying we should simply question authority for the sake of questioning authority or to rebel against people, but we need to realize the power of questioning. Unfortunately, because we've come to adhere to this rule, we don't ask the questions that often time need asked. And, because the questions don't get asked, we go about living life far from what God intended. We sit by, allowing others to shape our beliefs, and then wonder why things don't seem quite right. Then, instead of taking responsibility for our own choices, we look for something or someone to blame.

Let's take a moment and read those questions my friend brought out in her article once again:

- *"How much of what we believe is from what someone else has told us to believe?"*
- *"Where do I find my value, my worth, and my protection?"*

As I read these two questions and contemplated the answers for my life, the answers did not comfort me. I'm guessing many of you may have similar answers:

- Most of what I have believed is from what others have told me to believe. I have taken their word as truth, instead of discovering the truth from the very SOURCE - GOD.
- My value, worth, and protection was found in what I did; my knowledge, my talents, my education, my job, and what I thought other people thought about me. I knew I was loved and accepted by God, but deep down what others thought became more important.

For some time now, God has been speaking to me (and ministry team) of the need for our paradigms to change. He doesn't just want a slight shift in paradigm; the idea that we take on new revelation, but continue to filter it through OUR belief systems. No, he wants to completely rewrite our paradigms of him, his kingdom, our lives, and our understanding of church and ministry. However, we won't allow him to do that if we're clinging to our paradigms, or aren't willing to question what we believe, where these beliefs came from, and where our value, worth, and protection are derived. All too often, we

allow others to dictate what **IS** and what will **BE** without contemplation, without thought of its legitimacy, or without questioning its truth. Does it line up with the nature and heart of God?

"They must find it difficult... those who have taken authority as the truth, rather than truth as the authority." (Gerald Massey)

Beloved, God is the SOURCE of all truth, all revelation, all knowledge, all wisdom, all life - Everything! We are made in his image and likeness. We are not the SOURCE, but every part of our being is from the SOURCE! Our very purpose is to Reflect the One - our SOURCE. We are not to live autonomous from him, doing life in our own human effort; nor are we to blindly let others lead us through this life. When we do this, then we are essentially saying that our (or other's) authority is more important than the Father's.

When we live from that place of human effort (carnality), we reap the benefits of it: human limitations, human judgments, and human self-serving behavior. We see it every day in every sphere of society, but it seems to be rampant in the church at large. As long as we tag our endeavors with God's name or his kingdom, then somehow it makes it OK – this is absolutely not true! ***"My kingdom is not of this world..."*** (John 18:36). My friend touched on this in her article as well... All of the things ministries, churches, and leaders push onto the people through fear - buy this, support that, boycott this, if you don't do this or that, this will/won't happen, send this money to us and you'll be blessed, and so on. Why are we so easily swayed by those who seemingly have authority? Why do we think we can buy the favor and blessings of God through human effort? What part of the Kingdom of God is this? NO PART!!! Why don't we question those things we know don't line up with the nature of God? What are we afraid of anyway?

There is only One who embodies absolute authority - God; yet, he is also absolute Love (1 John 4:8) and absolute Truth (John 18:37). There is no darkness, no unholy motive in him (1 John 1:5). He is altogether righteous, faithful, holy, and true! The beautiful thing about God is this: he is not disturbed by our questions. Now, I'm not talking about accusatory questions that we often throw at God in anger, because things aren't going our way. But, even when we do this, he is not fazed, offended, or threatened by our questions (any of them). It would do most of us some real good to consider him and this example... We could learn a great deal!

"I only do what I see the Father doing. I only speak what I hear the Father saying" (John 5:19). It was this lifestyle of Jesus, our greatest example, which allowed him to be unthreatened and unoffended by all of the questions and accusations that were hurled at him. He simply saw with the eyes of Unconditional LOVE and spoke truth! When he saw injustices, he addressed it. When he heard others misrepresenting the truth of his Father, he spoke up. When he saw people manipulating others in the name of God, he took action! He questioned in Holy Love, those who were acting contrary to Love.

We must follow this example. Jesus did not point out the incorrect behavior, beliefs, or authority in judgment of those people. He brought it all to light, to awaken those individuals to an opportunity to know Truth, Life, and Light. Again, this is the example we should follow. When we question what we've been taught, it isn't to point out a flaw in another, but to open a door to Truth. When we disagree with those who are in authority or power, it is not to prove they are wrong or to rebel, but to open the door to Light. When we are confronted with truth or asked a question, revealing poor choices or some other inaccuracy, we mustn't take offense or become threatened, but allow it to open the door to Life. Unless we ask the questions, nothing will ever change.

Are we are willing to ask and be asked some hard questions? Perhaps some will say, "No." If we are comfortable in our current state, then why would we want change? If we are secure and feel protected, then why would we want to disrupt the delicate balance? I say, "*Delicate*", because if we are comfortable and secure in human effort, then our lives are like an up-side-down pyramid, teetering on the brink of disaster. We are placing our trust in nothing and hoping everything will continue to improve; that our security in ourselves and others will thrive; that the little foundation will hold it all together.

My earnest desire is that you would say, "Yes, I am willing to ask and be asked whatever questions need to be asked. I want to know for myself the SOURCE of all life, my Father God. I want to know that I know, that I know, where my beliefs, value, worth and protection come from. I am willing to bring it all to the Father – everything I've been taught, everything I believe, everything I think I know about this life, about my life and identity, and about God – I will bring it all to him and let go of it all; allowing him to give me the answers to it all. Whatever I hear, am taught, or encouraged to believe, I will bring it to the One who has ALL AUTHORITY and possesses ALL TRUTH!"

My friends, if we are willing to be honest with ourselves, not shifting blame, but allowing the light of God's love to shine upon us, and let him provide the answers, then we are positioning ourselves to know him for who he really is. **We Must Know God for Ourselves!** In Revelation 3:20, we are presented with a great promise, "***I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and them with me.***" This is an invitation to know him! Father's voice is sounding throughout all eternity, waiting for the door to be opened unto him. Beloved, you are the door! Open up and allow yourselves to be awakened to Eternal Life (*John 17:3*). It is in this place that God can begin to rewrite the paradigms.

It is not just the knowledge we hold that reveals wisdom, but the questions we ask! Don't be afraid to ask - the Spirit of God will lead and guide you into all Truth (*John 16:13*)! So, why do we believe what we believe? Why do we sing the songs we sing? Why do we allow others to go on manipulating in the name of God? And, why do we buy into it? Why do we permit others (or ourselves) to continue to shift the blame? Why don't we take responsibility for our actions, and hold others responsible for theirs? Why don't we ask God to reveal the baggage we're carrying, and then let go of it, instead of coddling it year after year? Why aren't we asking the questions, expecting answers? Why don't we look through the eyes of Love, instead of the eyes of fear and judgment? It's time to start asking the questions! It is time to let go of all we think we know and trust God!

"God is not a man that he should lie..." (Number 23:19)