

The Importance of Questions in Apologetics

The importance of questions?

Can you think of a spiritual question that grabbed your attention? Maybe one that was instrumental in you becoming a Christian?

What is the most important thing in your life?

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A QUESTION THAT CHANGED KENNEDY'S LIFE

In 1953 after being out late one Saturday night, Jim Kennedy was awakened Sunday afternoon by his clock-radio. For some reason the radio came on to the voice of Donald Grey Barnhouse, pastor of the 10th Avenue Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia.

Jim said that he got up “to change the station and put on some good music.” However, at that very moment Dr. Barnhouse raised a question that set his mind reeling— “Suppose you were to die today and stand before God and He were to ask you—‘What right do you have to enter into My heaven?’ — what would you say?” Kennedy continued listening to Dr. Barnhouse as he presented the message of salvation.

During the weeks that followed, he could not get that question out of his mind. In his search for an answer, Kennedy bought a book entitled *The Greatest Story Ever Told*. He read several chapters each night, until finally the Holy Spirit prompted him to get on his knees and receive the free gift of eternal life. “I shall be forever grateful for the radio broadcast of Donald Barnhouse and for the book by Fulton Ousler, both of which God used to bring me to a saving knowledge of His Son, Jesus Christ.”

- Have you come to the place in your spiritual life where you know for sure that if you died today you'd go to heaven?
- If you did die today and you stood before God and He said, “why should I let you into my heaven, what would you say?”

Existential Questions –

Who am I? [Identity]

What am I doing here? [Purpose]

What happens when I die? [Destiny/hope]

Jesus' use of questions –

Mark 2:18-19 ¹⁸ Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" ¹⁹ And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.

Mark 10:17-20 ¹⁷ And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" ²⁰ And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth."

Questions & Answers – both important

The importance of our lives and our words – 1 Pe. 3:15-16,

2:12; Mt. 5:16

Why do you believe?