

LIFE'S GREATEST QUESTIONS

We are about to encounter life's greatest questions. Five of them. The questions are a matter of life and death. The answers may surprise or even shock you. But where ever these next 30 minutes go in nearly 200 countries, you will find the questions and –the answers-to really be what your life with all its problems is all about.

INTRO

What is perhaps the most foolish question we can ask? What about the oldest question that first came from a human mouth? And the most probing question? What about life's most tormenting question? And life's most important question.

But what good are questions without answers. Come with me on a journey where we will ask life's greatest questions and find answers that will surely be More Than Talk.

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The Most Foolish Question

We're about to explore answers to five questions. If at first you think me a little loony for calling them life's greatest questions, let me assure that you'll agree with me moments after we both die. My hope is that we will find agreement in the here and now.

I begin with what I call the most foolish question. IS THERE A GOD? Most rational people over thousands of years agreed that there is. Their reasoning was simple. To every effect, there must be a cause. They took it for granted that you can't get something from nothing. Jaw—dropping creation stared them in the face. That was enough evidence on the outside of man. Then there was the evidence on the inside—they called it the law of human nature—of right and wrong. That law was found in the most sophisticated cities or the darkest most primitives jungles.

Of course there were always people who did not like the idea of a God keeping tabs on their behavior. Enter Mr. Darwin and his fairy tale theory of evolution. You know, all you needed was enough time for a frog to turn into a princess. After all, the first cell was so simple and came out of those chemicals that blended in a soup. Nobody asked "then who made the soup?" and there were no microscopes to uncover the most complicated brilliance of a language called DNA found in every cell. But that theory—any theory that could push God into a closet was bought by many hucksters and sold to the gullible as the assured opinion of science.

No more. Since the old classical physics has surrendered to the new quantum physics, the fragile house of atheism has been coming apart. Instead of God being dead, Dr. Robert Jastrow, astronomer and director of the Goddard Institute for Space Studies at NASA says in his book, 'God and The Astronomers' that since we now know that the universe had a beginning, there has to be a "beginner". And Yale physicist and Nobel Laureate Professor Henry Morganau says that "there is only one convincing answer" for the intricate law that governs nature. That answer is "creation by an omnipotent, omniscient God".

Ten English words open God's testimony of Himself in the Bible. "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." "In the beginning"—something big is up! "God"—someone big is in on it! "Created"—wow, no accident here! "The heavens and the earth"—our God is an awesome God.

Space so vast we measure it by light years—that's 186,000 miles a second. That's around the world over seven times—in one second! And with some one hundred billion stars in our one galaxy, we would have to travel at the speed of light for 150, 000 years.

Just to cross the Milky Way! But there are at least another one hundred billion galaxies in the known universe. That's *galaxies*. No wonder 90% of all astronomers today believe in God.

That's only the vast universe. What about little old you and me? Eyes so incredible that Darwin admitted getting sick trying to account for them. Sir Charles Scott Sherrington, famous Oxford physiologist writes, "Behind the intricate mechanism of the human eyes lie breathtaking glimpses of a Master Plan".

And your brain. There's no way to take it in. "Weighing but 3.3 pounds, it can perform what 500 tons of electrical and electronic equipment cannot do. Containing 10 to 15 billion neurons, each a unit living within itself, it performs feats that absolutely boggle the mind. What about your ears (hearing), nose (smelling), tongue (tasting), skeletal structure, flesh, skin. Oh my! And the heart—oh, your beautiful, beating heart.

Yes, there is a God—and he claims that you are not only fearfully and wonderfully made, but that He loves you and wants you to get personally acquainted with Him. That's why only a fool—a very self-centered fool—would say, "Duhhh—there no is God."

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The Oldest Question

It was a Veteran's Day observance at the Riverside National Cemetery. Everyone's grave had a flag placed there by a caring volunteers. Two hundred thousands flags. I was overwhelmed and had some tears. Then like a muffled drumbeat from afar, I seemed to catch an echo from the ages, life's oldest question. "If a man dies, shall he live again?" And the answer that came back was one word—"Guaranteed!" And as I gazed across those vast fields of flags and graves, I could almost see their contents changed from mortal dust to immortal beings at that moment described by that old song—"On that bright and cloudless morning, when the dead in Christ shall rise; and the glory of His resurrection shared."

If there was no life of after death, none of us would ever think about it, much less worry about it. But God programmed eternity into the brain and heart of man. We don't want to die. We really want to live forever. And we shall. Even science-the law of thermodynamics-states that energy or matter can't be created or destroyed. Not a single atom in creation can go out of existence. It only changes in form—like from a solid to a gas. The same with energy and force. It's only changed from one form to another. Greater minds than my little brain have pointed out that if man was to cease to exist, he would be the only thing in the universe to do so.

And even secular studies done on thousands of people pronounced clinically dead who were resuscitated and who reported after-death experiences should get our attention. Even the season tell us there is more than the grave. As William Jennings Bryan wrote, "If the Father (God) chooses to touch with Divine power the cold and pulseless heart of the buried acorn and make it burst forth into a new life, will He leave neglected in the earth the soul of man, made in the image of His creator?"

But all of the arguments are weak when compared with the one irrefutable fact that someone actually, historically, verifiably, come back from the dead to guarantee the world that there is life after death. The birth and death of Jesus Christ are historical facts. So is His resurrection from the dead an established fact to all but the willfully blind who live in la-la land of evolution fairy tales and atheistic irrationalism.

The Hebrew prophets (always 100% accurate) foretold the Messiah coming to be the sacrifice for the sins of the world and then being raised from the dead. Then Jesus came and told those baffled disciples He would be crucified and then raised from the dead. And those terrified disciples who ran out on Jesus when the suffering began and then hide like little girls after His death, became fearless lions after witnessing the risen Christ. They and the early Christians suffered unbillable tortures while speaking the truth: "He is risen!" As Paul Little said, "Men will die for what they

believe to be true, though it may actually be false. They do not, however, die for what they know is lie." They knew He was dead. Very dead. Now He was alive. Very alive.

And His words to John would settle forever the old question, "Is there life after death" with the guaranteed answer: "I am He that lives, and was dead; And behold, I am alive forevermore."

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(The Most Probing Question)

They had been with Him for three years. And their eyes saw what you and I often wish we could see—incredible undeniable miracles. Stone deaf ears touched and a world of new sounds for people whose world had been silence. And oh those glassy stares from unseeing eyes of the blind, and that same touch and word of authority that transformed lives that lived in blackness to the ecstatic wonder of living color.

Oh what Jesus pulled off for three years—some 1000 days—in the sight of that small band of brothers. Walking on water so that Peter, James, John and crew would learn that with Him in charge nothing would drown them in defeat and take them from His presence. When He spoke life back into dead corpses and commanded demons to leave their screaming victims and go back to hell where they came from, that band of brothers might have wished that diapers for adults had been invented by that time. The wonder and terror of it all!

But now it was time for Jesus to ask them some probing questions. He knew the cross was just ahead, with His death a certainty. And they, along with some faithful women, would be the ones He would leave behind who would flounder, flee and fail and then stand up and shake the world. “Who do men say that I the Son of man am?”, He asked. The brothers rushed to answer. “John the Baptist. They think he’s risen from the dead, and you’re him” “No”, interjected another, “Many more of them think you’re Elijah.” “Well”, said another disciple, “I heard another group say you must be Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. They were really shook up—scared—while trying to figure you out.”

Jesus had heard enough. He knew He had all their attention and that it was the perfect time to ask the most probing question of all. “But who do you say that I am?” He asked as He looked right through their skins into their souls. Were there a few seconds of silence while the gravity of that question sank into their minds, minds now sharpened and alert to the moment? Or did dear, impetuous Peter answer immediately? One thing is for sure; Peter, who would later flash his sword and chop off a man’s ear, had his own flashing moment—the flash of instant, life-changing revelation straight from the unseen God. “You are the Christ”, Peter told Jesus, “the Son of the living God.”

Jesus was pleased. He knew that in spite all their future failures and sins, they grasped the unchanging truth that He was and is the Son of God and Savior of all mankind.

Now you and I hear Him ask that same probing question: “Who do you say that I—Jesus Christ—am?” I have given my answer: “You are who you said you are. Please forgive me for all the sins in me that have broken your heart and save me to be yours alone.” What is your answer? “Jesus was a good man”, you say. Or maybe “a prophet.” Or “a good teacher.” But, my friend, if He was only that, He would be a liar. Because He said, “I am the way, the truth and the life. “And He proved it by rising from the cold and dark tomb. Muslim, Jew, Buddhist, Hindu. Agnostic, atheist, materialist. Rich, poor,

man, woman. He invites all to ask Him to guide them to the truth. He lives so that you might live—forever.

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The Most Tormenting Question

Does life have a purpose? Millions of people believe that is one of life's most tormenting questions. It torments them mostly because they are open to finding out the answer. They are open to reasoning. Then there are others—usually so-called intellectuals—who pedal the archaic evolution fairy tale and who declare that life has no purpose. They are closed to reasoning—for a reason.

The Apostle Paul cut through the fat of endless debate when he said that if Christ has not been raised from the dead and guaranteed a resurrection for every human being, then “let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” You know, if there's no God, no purpose, no judgment of evil, I'm home free. I can play God and run my own life.

Only one problem with that “no God-no purpose” head-in-the sand approach. It's a lie that will die one instant after death when God's purpose changes from grace and mercy to judgment and punishment. Besides, if there was no “purpose” in life, we could never know it. The world itself would have no meaning.

But now, to the rest of us who don't choose to be willfully blind. Of course there is purpose to life. God calls it “the eternal purpose which he proposed in Christ Jesus.” God had a purpose in letting you be born. If He gets His way, He plans to have you with Him forever in a new earth and new heaven of purest pleasures so ecstatic that earth's honeymoon stuff will be like tea and yogurt in comparison. That's why Jesus came. Listen to the biblical take on “purpose.” “For this PURPOSE the Son of God was manifested (revealed), that he might destroy the works of the devil.” Christ came to destroy the one whose diabolic purpose (see, even Satan has a purpose) was to destroy you beginning now and for eternity.

Just imagine the misery of the man or woman drifting without purpose. Love has no purpose. It's just a changing evolutionary emotion. Being married has no purpose just another of those evolving survival-of –the-fittest necessities that future millennia may deem unnecessary. Having kids has no real purpose, so don't forget to tell them that so that they can contemplate suicide rather than face the madness of a grave waiting at the end of their no-purpose lives.

Without God, nothing makes sense. With God, everything makes sense, even the toughest moments in life once we hear that the God who's love will make all things work together for good to them that love God; to them who are called according to His purpose.” There's that word “purpose” again.

So let's run “purpose” to its conclusion 1) God's purpose in creating the universe anticipated you being made in His image. 2) Christ's purpose in sacrificing His perfect life to let you and me

off the hook of judgment that we deserved anticipated our receiving Him with grateful hearts. 3) And now the Holy Spirit's purpose is to guide you and me into God's love letter called the Bible so that our thoughts, words and actions will revolve around one purpose—to glorify God and fulfill His plan for our lives. Only then will there be no regrets when we take that final breath on earth and reappear on the stage called eternity—where the curtain never falls.

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The Most Important Question

Line up ten people and ask them “what is the most important question in life?” “You might get ten different answers. Like “How can I increase my net worth?” “Will my marriage end in failure?” “Will my sickness prove fatal?” “How can I have more fun?” Well, you get the point.

All those questions have value for a few years at best. Like the man in the Scriptures who watched his net worth soar. He asked himself his most important question, “what shall I do?” As he viewed his bulging storehouses. Then he answered himself, “tear these barns down and build bigger ones.” After that, he told himself, he would have it made. Oh what fun retirement would be. He was so busy bragging about his good

fortune that he didn't hear God call him a fool. He died that night, never having asked life's most important question.

We discover that question in another biblical scenario. Paul and Silas were in prison. Their crime was telling people that God loved them and that Jesus Christ had sacrificed His life to save them from their sins. What do you do when your hands and feet are shackled, you're in solitary confinement, it's midnight and your only visitors are rats who eye you as their hope-for next meal? You sing a song. At least, that's what P&S—Paul and Silas did. And it so touched the heart of God that He busted up a jail and opened prison doors.

The guard knew that their escape to freedom meant his entrance to execution. As he rushed to commit suicide. Paul called out that they were all still present and accounted for. That's when the jailor cried out with life's most important questions; "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" It was answered with "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved, and your house."

Paul knew what He was talking about. As a zealous Jew, he had once pitted himself against Yashuah of Nazareth—Jesus. Even after Christ's resurrection Saul of Tarsus declared himself the enemy. He even helped preside over the execution of the first martyr Stephen and made havoc of the infant church. Then came the Damascus road where a blinded Saul met the awesome Christ and became the Messiah's greatest champion.

Now that question "what must I do to be saved? Echoes down through two millennia to you and me. It really is life's most important questions. No matter what your present life is like, it will end soon. What are 70 or 80 years when compared to eternity?! If you want a guarantee of sins forgiven an assurance of eternal life, there's only one place to go.

It's the foot of the cross where Jesus died for you.

First, to be saved means to have to realize we're lost. God pulls no punches on that: "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Second, we need to spit out our pride and repent—turnaround from our selfish sin and tell God we are really sorry. Third, we need to

make the biggest decision in life by asking Jesus to save us and become the focus of our lives. Will you do that right now with this prayer: "Dear God, I know I'm lost without the Savior You sent to this world. Forgive me my sins. Jesus, come into my heart and life. I want the rest of my days to be lived for you. Save me and use me Amen!"

"Remember the question" What must I do to be saved? You have just done it!

WRAP

You've made the greatest decision you will ever make. That's because God made you live forever with a Savior who is alive forever.

I want to know you have invited Jesus Christ to be your answer to life.

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I'm Frank Eiklor

I wish I could say "God bless you" in every language where this program reaches. 192 countries. I hope you'll always find these messages fresh—and More Than Talk.