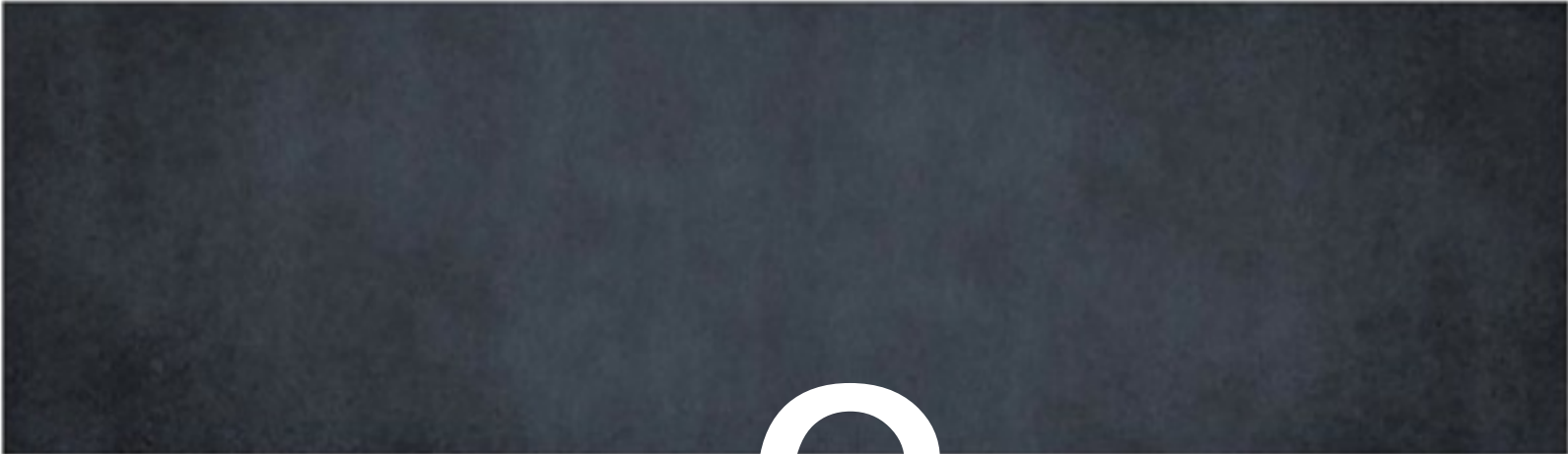


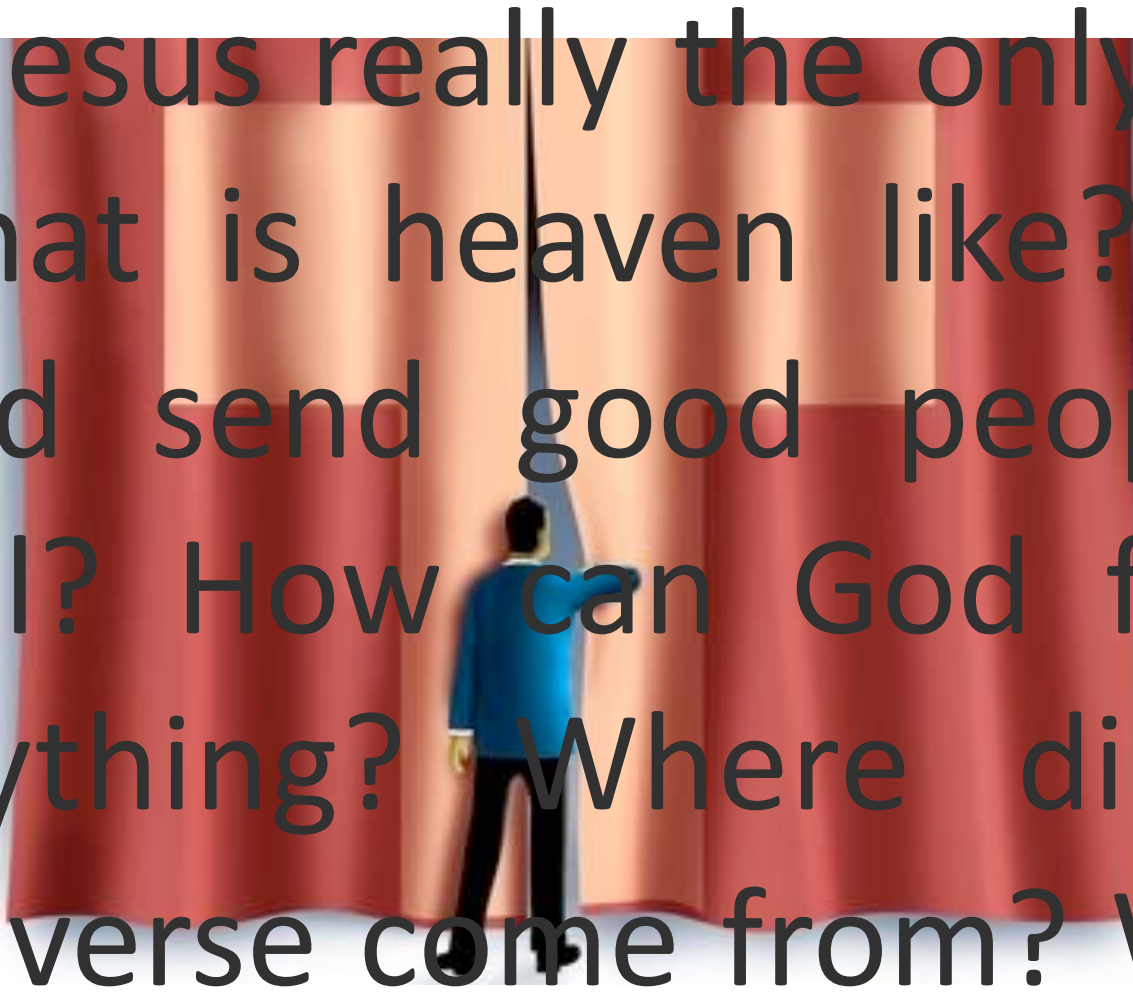
Questions for GOD 



It always strikes me, and it is very peculiar, that when we see the image of indescribable and unutterable desolation - of loneliness, of poverty and misery, the end of all things, or their extreme - **then** rises in our mind the thought of God.

~Vincent van Gogh, *Dear Theo: An Autobiography of Vincent van Gogh*, 1937

Is it OK to question God?

A person in a blue suit is seen from behind, pulling a large red curtain. The scene is set against a white background. The text is overlaid on the image.

Why me? Is the Bible True?
Is Jesus really the only way?
What is heaven like? Does
God send good people to
hell? How can God forgive
anything? Where did the
universe come from? Why is
there suffering? How can

"Question with boldness even the existence of a God;
because, if there be one, he must more approve of the
homage of reason, than that of blind-folded fear. "

~Thomas Jefferson

Don't question God, for He may reply: "If you're so anxious for answers, come up here."

~Author Unknown

Pretty much every single major person in the Bible questioned God about something at one time or another.



Genesis 18:10-15

10 Then one of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son."

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him.**11** Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing.**12** So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?"

13 Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?'"**14** Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son."

15 Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, "I did not laugh." But he said, "Yes, you did laugh."

Genesis 18:20-26

20 Then the Lord said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous**21** that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know."

22 The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the Lord.**23** Then Abraham approached him and said: "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked?**24** What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it?**25** Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

26 The Lord said, "If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

¹¹ And Moses said unto God, Who *am* I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?

⁷ And Joshua said, Alas, O Lord God, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? would to God we had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan!

Judges 6:13

"Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, 'Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian."

Psalm 13:1

1 How long, O Jehovah? wilt thou forget me for ever?
How long wilt thou hide thy face from me?

2 How long shall I take counsel in my soul, Having
sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall mine
enemy be exalted over me?

3 Consider and answer me, O Jehovah my God: Lighten
mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death;

4 Lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him;
Lest mine adversaries rejoice when I am moved.

5 But I have trusted in thy lovingkindness; My heart
shall rejoice in thy salvation.

6 I will sing unto Jehovah, Because he hath dealt
bountifully with me.

²⁰ And he [Elijah]cried unto the Lord, and said, O Lord my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?

Jeremiah 12:1

You are always righteous, Lord,
when I bring a case before you.
Yet I would speak with you about your
justice:

Why does the way of the wicked
prosper?

Why do all the faithless live at ease?

12 Wilt thou refrain thyself for
these *things*, O Lord?
Wilt thou hold thy peace, and
afflict us very sore?

2 Corinthians 12:7-9

To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.⁹ But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

¹⁰ They called out in a loud voice,
“How long, Sovereign Lord, holy
and true, until you judge the
inhabitants of the earth and
avenge our blood?”



It isn't whether its right to do it it's whether we do it right

How to question God



It isn't whether its right to do it it's whether we do it right



Approach with Humility

Design and organize



Malachi 3:13-14

13 "You have spoken arrogantly against me," says the Lord. "Yet you ask, 'What have we said against you?'"

14 "You have said, 'It is futile to serve God. What do we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the Lord Almighty?' **15** But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly evildoers prosper, and even when they put God to the test, they get away with it.'"

I had a thousand questions to ask God; but
when I met him they all fled and **didn't seem**

~Christopher Morley, *Inward Ho!*, 1923

You ask: what is the meaning or purpose of life? I can only answer with another question: do you think we are wise enough to **read God's mind?**

~Freeman Dyson, quoted in *The Meaning of Life*, compiled by Hugh S. Moorhead



Approach with an Open Mind

Stylize, edit, and animate your media

Can a mortal ask **questions** which God finds unanswerable?
Quite easily, I should think. All nonsense questions are unanswerable.

C.S. Lewis



Approach Prayerfully

View your slides from anywhere! 





Search the Bible

Design and organize 



Question in Community

Design and organize



"Most of the people I've encountered are looking not for a religion to answer all their questions but for a

community of faith

Rachel Held Evans- Author of *Evolving in Monkey Town*

How about you?

What is God saying to YOU this morning?

Pray your questions to him.

Where is he pointing you for answers?

