

Heidi Dreyer—Senior Sermon

Children ask questions just like I did when I was little. Jesus loves the little kids and wants them to come. Jesus said, "*Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.*" – Mark 10: 14

Kids ask questions to learn and obtain guidance from whomever (family, teachers, etc) and as we grow in our walk with Lord, we must ask Him for guidance and how to learn.

As we go through life we still have questions, just of a different magnitude and nature.

Philippians 2:12 – 18

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life – in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

Growing up, we sometimes forget to keep the questions coming, we try to suppress them.

If you're anything like me, you don't like to admit your wrongs and admit that we don't know everything, and we weren't meant to. That's why God is here, but we need to recognize the questions in order to remain fresh.

The questions of Who is God? What does being a Christian and living a Christian life look like? And any other questions you may have.

God tells us in Philippians:

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Now, you may be thinking, what can God do with me? I'm just an ordinary person, but as Rick Warren says, "If God only used perfect people, nothing would get done. God will use anybody if you're available." It is important. Make the desires of your heart known to God. Allow him to meet you where you are.

During these times don't shun God, and think you aren't good enough. Instead, lean on him to grow your relationship. By letting our questions emerge, it allows us to think, ponder, pray and live the questions.

When meeting with Pastor Paul he shared with me a very special and neat quote. "Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves. Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them. And the point is to live everything. Live the questions." – Rainer Marie Rilke

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Patient is easier said than done. As many of you may know, I am not a very patient person. I struggle with it daily and probably always will, but it is an important skill, along with loving the questions.

By loving the questions, it keeps us fresh on our walk with God. The dynamics of the relationship will always be changing, and God will continually find new ways to shape us for our Purpose in life.

Throughout the changes and challenges in your walk with God, remember what is said in Psalm 37: 3 – 7.

Trust in the Lord and do good, dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

Allow your growth to strengthen and equip you for whatever may come your way, all the while knowing and sharing the Gospel. As written in Philippians 2, *Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life – in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. Shine like stars, knowing your ultimate satisfaction should come from God loving us and us loving God.*

Because that's the truth, we didn't run or labor for anything. Jesus has done it all. Nothing that we've done, or ever will do, has saved us. Jesus saved us. The Gospel is what saved us. So by recognizing, praying, learning, and continuing the questions, it allows us grow our relationship with God.

But, one thing always remains, The Gospel. Think of the Gospel as a light, the light of the world. You don't bring light into an already lit room. You take light into the darkness. Pray for God to strengthen you, lean on His word to learn more, and you will be equipped to let the questions emerge and not have them "rock your world" because God is there with his steadfast promise. Take His word into the dark for all to see, living the questions all the while living a Christian life for all the world to see.

Look for opportunities to grow and strengthen. Now, you may be wondering what changed me. Studying abroad changed me, and the book, "The Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren changed me. Being blessed enough to come to college, attending Augustana changed me. Working with Rec Services and having Mark Hecht mentor, shape and grow me changed me. My best friend, DJ Meyer, has changed me. Finally, my parents raising me in a Christian home, always supporting and encouraging me.