

## ELEVEN MORE QUESTIONS

We asked "ten questions" a couple of weeks ago, and "ten more" this past week. Are you making progress? It's in response to God's challenge, "*Consider your ways*" in Haggai 1:5-7, which demonstrates short-comings of an unexamined life. Do you just go with the flow, mindlessly following the current of today's culture, following examples and advice of media talking heads?

Many people rarely think about what they're doing, or thinking, or believing. And it shows. Here are eleven more questions to add to the twenty we've already considered. It's part of a series by seminary professor Don Whitney, author of several helpful books (including *Spiritual Disciplines* and *Praying the Bible*, and more at [www.BiblicalSpirituality.org](http://www.BiblicalSpirituality.org)).

**REGRET** - "What one thing do you most regret about last year, and what will you do about it this year?" First, know that in true repentance, there is turning around, and forgiveness. This often requires making things right through restitution, or re-earning someone's trust. Pray!

**BLESS** - "What single blessing from God do you want to seek most earnestly this year?" What blessings does God promise His beloved redeemed people in Christ? Read your Bible. How does Scripture indicate you can receive His blessings? Start by trusting Him, and obeying Him.

**GROW** - "In what area of your life do you most need growth, and what will you do about it this year?" Make a list of your needy areas. Weight them with a numeric score of importance. When you've identified the most important, and most urgent, write down some strategies. Do it.

**TRIP** - "What's the most important trip you want to take this year?" Maybe it's a friend, neighbor or relative who needs your presence. Maybe [CreationMuseum.org](http://CreationMuseum.org) or a mission should be on your list. Maybe your trip should be virtual, an online or DVD experience. Maybe you should send someone else somewhere. Your best investment might be in someone else's trip.

**SKILL** - "What skill do you most want to learn or improve this year?" Maybe you need new tools in marriage, family, or relationships. Or for your job, or community service opportunities. Or for your impact in church or community ministry. Get advice, education, and experience.

**GIVE** - "To what need or ministry will you try to give an unprecedented amount this year?" Many people underfund their own local church, which should be your primary focus of giving. But God may also prompt giving after that, to ministries in your community, or area of concern. There's no end to good causes. Consider carefully the eternal impact, and saving of souls.

**COMMUTE** - "What's the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your commute this year?" Christian radio may not have the content you need in your timeframe. Check out podcasts, downloads. CDs, or audio Bible. Or work on Bible memorization or prayer lists.

**DOCTRINE** - "What one Biblical doctrine do you most want to understand better this year, and what will you do about it?" Check out several study Bibles. Your church library. More examples: [Ligonier.org](http://Ligonier.org), [Monergism.com](http://Monergism.com), [Creation.com](http://Creation.com), *Concise Theology* by JI Packer, and many more.

**ADVICE** - "If those who know you best gave you one piece of advice, what would they say? Would they be right? What will you do about it?" How do you know they're right or wrong? What about humility, repentance, and faith? How might God be speaking through their concern?

**BUY** - "What's the most important new item you want to buy this year?" The scholar Erasmus said, "Wear the old coat and buy the new book." Consider eternal values as you decide to invest worldly wealth. Consider intrinsic value, as of gold and silver. Think before you spend.

**CHANGE** - "In what area of your life do you most need change, and what will you do about it this year?" Consider Neil Anderson's definition of a "godly goal." It reflects God's purpose for your life but does not depend on people or circumstances beyond your ability to control. In contrast, a "godly desire" depends on the cooperation of other people or circumstances you cannot control. Focus on what you can do. Otherwise, your efforts can lead to anger or depression.

**MORE** - "Let's evaluate our lives, make plans and goals, and live this new year with Biblical diligence," says Whitney. He points to this truth, "Plans of the diligent lead surely to advantage" (Proverbs 21:5). He exhorts, in all things we must remember our dependence on the King who said, "*Apart from Me you can do nothing*" (John 15:5). Trust and obey Jesus, by His power! ☐