

## TEN MORE QUESTIONS

How are you coming with the "ten questions" we considered last week? It's a great way to start a new year, with direction and determination. Here are ten more questions to add, as you examine yourself before the Lord. Then step out in faith, trusting God's truth, and His power within.

This list is 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)).

As you consider these questions, begin by prayerfully bringing them before the Lord, one by one, and bringing to bear the principles of God's revealed will in His written-down Word, the Bible.

**DECIDE** - "What's the most important decision you need to make this year?" Beware the tyranny of the urgent. The most pressing issue might not be the most important. Even if you can't decide on the one most important, pick an important decision and get to work on it. God's Word provides eternal truths and divine principles that apply to every area of your life. Obey Him!

**SIMPLIFY** - "What area of your life most needs simplifying, and what's one way you could simplify in that area?" Don't let the godless culture dictate what you should think and do. "Don't let the world press you into its mold." Recognize God's timeless values, and pursue them.

**NEED** - "What's the most important need you feel burdened to meet this year?" Pray about it. Maybe you're not the most important person in the universe. Maybe you're distracted by yourself. Consider needs of the people around you, in your life. What could you do to make a difference?

**HABIT** - "What habit would you most like to establish this year?" Some research shows it takes an average of 66 days to develop a new habit in your life. But it can vary between 18 and 254 days. Reality is, each of those days come one at a time. You will need to be diligent. Begin by basing your plans on God's Word, and considering what you can control, to make changes.

**PERSON** - "Who is the person you most want to encourage this year?" Just asking this question forces you to think about people in your life, their needs, and your role. "You're more likely to remember to encourage that person than if you hadn't asked the question," notes Whitney.

**\$\$\$\$** - "What is your most important financial goal this year, and what is the most important step you can take toward achieving it?" The voices urging you for this or that are legion. Begin with God's Word (and [www.Crown.org](http://www.Crown.org) and [www.EPM.org](http://www.EPM.org) are great places to consider). You can't serve both God and money, Jesus said. Lay up treasures in heaven, for eternity to come.

**WORK** - "What's the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your work life this year?" For some people, it means not making work your idol. For others, it means you need to consider God's provision in your job, and how to glorify Him each day. Haggai 1:6 notes "*he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes.*" What about your work?

**PASTOR** - "What's one new way you could be a blessing to your pastor (or to another who ministers to you) this year?" Some pastors crave attention, while others prefer to influence in the background. Either way, don't overlook that they are real people with the same needs as others. Maybe you don't get much out of your pastor because you put very little into their life.

**LEGACY** - "What's one thing you could do this year to enrich the spiritual legacy you will leave to your children and grandchildren?" Our culture focuses on financial legacy, as though being a good provider is the end goal. But the only thing that endures for eternity is the human soul. What are you doing to ensure that your children and grandchildren are born-again believers in Christ?

**BOOK** - "What book, in addition to the Bible, do you most want to read this year?" The lists are endless, so consider why you want to invest the time in a book. It may relate to a question on this list of questions. Be discerning. Every author has an underlying philosophy that attempts to influence what you think and do. Make sure it develops understanding of God's eternal values. (Need a nudge? Helpful sites include [www.Ligonier.org](http://www.Ligonier.org) and [www.monergism.com/start-here](http://www.monergism.com/start-here)).

**MORE** - The word of the Lord came through Haggai: "*Consider your ways.*" Whitney notes that the value of his list of questions "is not in their profundity, but in the simple fact that they bring an issue or commitment into focus." Just taking the time to pray and think about something can make a huge difference in how you follow through. Trust and obey the Lord, by His power! ☐