

Prompting Questions



I have often found it ironic (I could also add humorous, scandalous and satirical) that I have ended up being involved in deep levels with people when a large portion of my life into my early thirties was devoted to hating and running from others. I held a belief that I would never be able to escape the self-imposed confines and thick walls I had developed as a way to escape the pain of life imposed by others. The irony is striking because of the past and now the present. Then and now. What was before and what is now current-they all seem to describe the irony and contrast of once what was and now is. Symbolism seems to be a mirror of sorts; reflecting what could not be but is.

I recently led a teambuilding event for the staff at Genesis, something I have a deep passion for in seeing people unified and asking the difficult questions of one another. As you look at the picture of the “props” I used that day, you will begin to understand the symbolism that we can attach to the mystery surrounding this life. After this event I found myself asking this question: How does a puzzle piece, a question mark, a brick,

the symbol of yin yang, a light bulb, a band aid and a newspaper seem to correlate to my life experiences and circumstances? I put pen to paper and here is what I wrote- perhaps what the average Genesis counseling client asks as they come in search of answers to difficult questions and experiences.

A piece of the puzzle: How much energy have I spent lately in trying to “fit in” this worlds system of conformity to its rules? How much energy do I exert to be accepted by others and to fit in? My mind immediately goes to Romans 12:2: “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind....” And Luke of the N.T. reminds me of Jesus’s words to his followers in Luke 21:17; “You will be hated by all for my names sake”.



A question mark: What is the meaning of my existence? Am I living out what my spiritual convictions tell me? I have to go to the book of John because it is filled with statements of Jesus- John 4:23; “The hour is coming when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth for the Father is seeking such people to worship him”. I am made to worship God!

A brick: What feels like a ton of bricks on my back that may have been there for years? Childhood stuff- always childhood stuff. Even relationship stuff today can feel like bricks. Speaking of weight- II Cor. 4:17 says it all; “For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison....”

Yin Yang: Have I reconciled the two seemingly oppositional forces of personal suffering and spiritual wisdom? I get it maybe- one leads to the other. Romans 5:3 “Suffering produces....”

A light bulb: When have I had a moment where I finally understood a long term dilemma? The great book of the Psalms! Ps. 55:22 “Cast your burdens upon the Lord”.

A band aid: What do I tend to do with my wounds and those of others- plaster a band aid on them, follow some easy steps to recovery or recommend that my friends just think positively? A wound must heal by being exposed to air. The heart, mind and soul must be exposed to the Word, Hebrews 4:12 “the Word of God.....and discerning the thoughts and intensions of the heart”.

A newspaper: What is my purpose in reading the newspaper every day with breakfast when its mostly full of very sad and alarming news? I believe I am going to change that and eliminate that news!

What symbolizes your life right now?

Dennis

