

# Why Does God A-S-K Questions?

By NFL Running Back, Rashad Jennings  
(delivered at the IGNITE Impact Men's Weekend in Lynchburg VA)

03/12/2016

## INTRODUCTION:

American novelist Thomas Berger said that, “the art and science of asking questions is the source of all knowledge.” The education system stands or falls by what is being asked and how and when questions are formed. Good teachers are experts at posing compelling questions.

Hey, “Can I ask y’all a question?”

[Alpha-8 Pass Protection Drill – “What do you have on Alpha-8?” *After calling the kid up on the stage and taking him through the drill, you can finish the illustration up by asking “Do you think I asked him that question because I didn’t know the answer or wasn’t sure?” Then tell them that you asked him because you wanted him to ANSWER up so that he could SHOW the coaches that he is ready and to make KNOWN to the quarterback that he is protected and can focus on the pass. Without pass protection, you will not make the team! I’m sure Kirk Cousins would strongly agree, right Kirk?*]

So, “Can I ask y’all a question?”

I believe that, among other reasons, God asks questions for at least three in particular. And to make it easy to remember, I will use the letters of the word “ASK” to highlight what they are:

God asks questions in order to...

**A** – Get **ANSWERS**, so that He might...

**S** – **SHOW** something that He ultimately wants to make...

**K** – **KNOWN** to us and/or others.

Oh yeah... How many of you are still waiting for me to ask y’all a question? You see, I’ve been asking a question the whole time, and you have been answering the question the whole time... “Can I ask y’all a question?” You see, Jesus even said in Luke 8:18 that you should pay attention to how you hear...

Let me give you a couple of examples from the Bible on this A-S-K principle...

**I. The Call and Question of Satan and Job (Job chapters 1 and 2).** The book of Job starts and ends with some very important questions—questions that not only generate ANSWERS, but questions which are also intended to SHOW and to make KNOWN some very important things.

A. **God Questions Satan.** In Job chapters 1 and 2, God asks Satan the same questions twice... “Where have you come from?” and “Have you considered my servant Job?” Each time, Satan said he came “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.”

God knew the answers, but He asked the questions to get Satan to ANSWER, so that he could SHOW us that we are protected by God, but also what the Devil’s continual mission is. Like in the roaring lion of 1 Peter 5:8, Satan seeks throughout the earth for someone to devour.

So, Satan, who believed that the only reason Job didn’t curse God was because of his blessings, challenges God to get His permission do Job harm. The first time he destroyed all Job had; the second time he attacked Job’s body with a severe and painful disease. Even Job’s own wife tried both times to get Job to curse God. But Job proved the Devil wrong both times and did not sin against God with his words.

So, you see, God was making it KNOWN to Satan that He will never allow us to be tempted beyond what we are capable of enduring. We see that in 1 Corinthians 10:13.

Before I move on to one more example in Job, please consider this thought... *If God would allow Satan to have what he asked him for, how much more does God have in store for His own beloved children?* Please think deeply about that question as we proceed...

B. **God Questions Job.** Let’s take this back to school for a second. Have you ever had to take a test that had essay questions—you know a three, four, or maybe even five-part question? Let’s be honest, how many in here like having to answer those types of questions on a test?

Well, what about a question that had about 50-parts, and even parts within those parts to answer? I don't know about you, but I would cringe at having to answer a 50-part question. But this is what God did to Job in chapters 38 through 41! He hit Job with a full barrage of rapid-fire questions about things that no man could possibly know unless God told him. So why did God even bother asking them?

What is our first letter of this principle? It is because God wants an **ANSWER**... even if one can't be given! Why? Because whether they be rhetorical questions or even unanswerable questions, questions are also asked in order to **SHOW** something right? With that 50-plus part question, God was in the process of showing Job (and us) that, as Romans 11:34 says, "Who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been His counselor?"

Job was forced to defend himself because of the false accusations made of him by his friends. But as he began to defend himself, he also, out of self-pity, began to speak with pride in his heart. And God hit him with a barrage of unanswerable questions in order to humble Job and to make it **KNOWN** to Job and to everybody that not even the most righteous people who ever lived have even begun to scratch the surface of the understanding of God's ways! The mighty prophet Isaiah was also told by God that, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord." And what else is a declaration but making something known.

- C. **Really KNOWING...** There is a wealth of lessons to be learned in examining all of the questions of Job. But the final chapter finishes the book with a few more things that God wanted to make known. Notice how it finally says things like, "I *know* that [GOD] can do all things..." (verse 2), or where God asks, "Who is this that hides counsel without *knowledge*?" and Job says, "Therefore, I uttered what I did not *understand*" (verse 3), even when Job thought back to where he determined that, "I will question you [God], and you make it *known* to me" (verse 4). This is a conversation between God and Job where Job admits that he thought he *knew* all about God, but came to realize that he hardly *knew* anything about Him; and so Job repented.

Then the Lord turned his anger towards Job's friends and made them offer sacrifices as an apology for falsely accusing Job and speaking incorrectly of God's ways. This served to make it *known* to Job's friends that they didn't *know* anything about the mind of God either. Then God restored Job's health and wealth and blessed him with more children.

And Job 42:11 says, “Then came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and ate bread with him in his house.” You see, Job had a **head-knowledge** of God that was severely incomplete. But after all was said and done, Job now had an experiential and much more intimate **heart-knowledge** of God. And from that day, Job went on to live a long and richly rewarding life. And to this day, Job is **KNOWN** as one of the most righteous men who have ever lived!

This also echoes again that thought I mentioned to you a moment ago... *If God would allow Satan to have what he asked him for, how much more does God have in store for His own beloved children... like Job?*

**II. God Is Trying To ASK You Something!** Before I move on, I have a couple of questions: *What might God be asking you about your life right now? Why? And one more SUPER-important question... How? How might God be questioning you?*

One of the most significant ways God questions all of us comes when we faithfully and prayerfully read and study His word. That is first and foremost. Another way that God asks us questions is by the Holy Spirit speaking to our hearts. But here is another method God uses that I want to suggest to you that made all kinds of difference in my life as well: God will often ask you questions through someone very close to you in life.

In my case, that someone was my father, Albert Jennings. And please, don't get it twisted! The conversation God prompted through my father was not immediately understood to be from God. In fact, I resented much of it. But as I look back on what I'm about to share with you, I see now how God used my earthly father's question to **IGNITE** the passion in me that would propel me far beyond my severely limited childhood capabilities and bring me to where I find myself today, at the pinnacle of the sport of football, the NFL...

**III. How My Father's Question IGNITED My Passion.** *[This is where you tell your story about when your dad asked you what you want to be when you grow up. Here is where you will simply apply the A-S-K concept to your dad's question:*

*In retrospect, you see that God used your dad to ask you “What do you want to be when you grow up?” He asked you because he wanted an answer, but God let him ask you because God knew what the ultimate answer would be today! So... Your dad unknowingly asked the question for God so that...*

*A – you would **ANSWER** by saying you wanted to play in the NFL. Then God allowed your father to tell you that you would never make it, because God knew that you would...*

*S – **SHOW** your dad that you could make it. And now, by the grace of God and through your faith and hard work, you are...*

*K – **KNOWN** by the world as a Running Back for the NY Giants! The one thing that, by your health and other negative factors in your life, you were not supposed to be able to do! And now you have a platform that you can use to make Christ more **KNOWN** too!]*

### **CONCLUSION:**

The moral of my story is that however He chooses to do it, God will ask you probing questions that may not be comfortable, or may even seem ridiculous. But they will be designed to IGNITE a passion in you to pursue your purpose, but only IF you will keep yourself in the way of being sensitive to His still small voice.

How do you stay sensitive to God's questioning? Stay in the word! Stay in prayer! Honor your parents and other God-given authorities, and watch God make your life impactful for His glory and for the good of you and who knows how many others!

And fathers, these principles also apply to you! Stay in the word of God! Stay in prayer! And Stay involved in your children's lives! The next question God asks you just might IGNITE a fire in you that you, in turn, pass on to your child with a single powerful, impactful, and life-changing question!

***I thank God that one day, years ago, He allowed my father to ask me the tough questions! Embrace the tough questions as they come, and come to know how God might be speaking words to you that will change your life, and the lives of others for the better!***