

GOOD QUESTIONS?

In Psalm 90, Moses writes, "*The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away...So teach us to number our days, that we may get a heart of wisdom...Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands.*" Good words to consider anytime, especially at the start of this new year.

1- "Consider your ways" - declared the prophet Haggai as he spoke God's Word to His people. Don Whitney explains that God admonished them "to evaluate their slipshod spirituality in light of what God had told them." He is author of several books, including "Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life" and "Praying the Bible." He suggests ten questions to ask prayerfully in God's presence.

1-What's one thing you could do this year to increase your enjoyment of God? 2-What's the most humanly impossible thing you will ask God to do this year? 3-What's the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your family life this year? 4-In which spiritual discipline do you most want to make progress this year, and what will you do about it? 5-What is the single biggest time-waster in your life, and what will you do about it this year? 6-What is the most helpful new way you could strengthen your church? 7-For whose salvation will you pray most fervently this year? 8-What's the most important way you will, by God's grace, try to make this year different from last year? 9-What one thing could you do to improve your prayer life this year? 10-What single thing that you plan to do this year will matter most in ten years? In eternity?

2- "Number your days" - Those first questions likely won't take long to answer. You've probably been thinking about them subconsciously. Now it's time get focused and take some action. Or, you could deal with one question each day, along with Whitney's next list of 21 more. Post the list or enter into your phone or computer, to remind you to take time each day to consider God and your life. 1-What's the most important decision you need to make this year? 2-What area of your life most needs simplifying, and what's one way you could simplify in that area? 3-What's the most important need you feel burdened to meet this year? 4-What habit would you most like to establish this year? 5-Who is the person you most want to encourage this year? 6-What is your most important financial goal this year, and what is the most important step you can take toward achieving it? 7-What's the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your work life this year? 8-What's one new way you could be a blessing to your pastor (or to another who ministers to you) this year? 9-What's one thing you could do this year to enrich the spiritual legacy you will leave to your children and grandchildren?

10-What book, in addition to the Bible, do you most want to read this year? 11-What one thing do you most regret about last year, and what will you do about it this year? 12-What single blessing from God do you want to seek most earnestly this year? 13-In what area of your life do you most need growth, and what will you do about it this year? 14-What's the most important trip you want to take this year? 15-What skill do you most want to learn or improve this year? 16-To what need or ministry will you try to give an unprecedented amount this year? 17-What's the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your commute this year? 18-What one Biblical doctrine do you most want to understand better this year, and what will you do about it? 19-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? 20- What's the most important new item you want to buy this year? 21-In what area of your life do you most need change, and what will you do about it this year?

3- Good questions! - The Bible leads you to good answers, as you "*consider your ways*" and "*number your days*" and ask God for "*the favor of the Lord.*" Whitney reminds, "*The plans of the diligent lead surely to advantage*" (Proverbs 21:5). And "*apart from Me you can do nothing*" (John 15:5). Just one more question: Do you put God's written-down Truth into your mind every day? In only ten minutes a day you can read the whole Bible in a year (check plans at www.esv.org or www.ligonier.org). To have God's answers instead of lies of the world, the flesh, and the devil. So you can live for Jesus every day, by His power within you. That's worth taking time for. Godspeed 2018!