

Band of Brothers

“Tough Questions”

January 2014

For our struggle is not against F_____ and B_____, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 6:12)

Our battle is for our H_____ (John Eldredge)

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. (Ezekiel 36:26)

What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their S_____S_____? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their S_____? (Matthew 10:26)

“Seek first his K_____” (Matthew 6:33)

“Take the helmet of salvation and the S_____ of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (Ephesians 6:17)

Setting the Stage: Why is it necessary to study and apply God's word?

To “Study” and “Apply” are different than to “Read” the bible. We are often better off digging into, and reflecting on, a single passage instead of reading an entire chapter or book. Scripture is God’s “living” word, so it should not be treated like any other book. We are not under any obligation to read the bible every day. This is not a task that needs to be checked off nor is God keeping track. Our attempt to apply human effort to the bible with an expectation of a result is misguided. Simply, it IS the power of God in written form and is His gift to us. Let go and then let God show you the way. His Word and Spirit are the ultimate “Life Coach”.

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Proverbs 2:1-6

My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;

John 6:63

⁶³ The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

Romans 1:16

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

Ephesians 6:17

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

1) Who made God? (DH)

a. Genesis 1:1

- i. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

b. 1 Corinthians 2:7

- i. ⁷No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.

c. 2 Timothy 2:9

- i. ⁹He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.

d. Titus 1:2

- i. ²in the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time.

e. Psalms 90:2

- i. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

f. Romans 1:18-22

- i. ¹⁸The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. ²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools

g. Revelation 22:13

- i. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

2) What is the Trinity? How could God be Jesus at the same time and then also the Holy Spirit? (DH)

a. John 1:1

- i. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

b. 1 Corinthians 8:6

- i. ⁶ yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

c. Matthew 28:19

- i. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

d. John 14:26

- i. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

e. Deuteronomy 6:4

- i. ⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

3) How do we know if we are saved? (DH)

a. John 6:47

- i. ⁴⁷ Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life.

b. Ephesians 2:8

- i. For it is **by** grace you have been **saved**, through **faith**—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

c. Luke 23:40-43

- i. ⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”
⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”
⁴³ Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

d. **John 14:6**

- i. Jesus answered, “**I am the way** and **the** truth and **the** life. No one comes to **the** Father except through me.

e. **Matthew 10:32-33**

- i. ³² “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³ But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

f. **Matthew 25**

- i. ³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. ³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ ³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ ⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ ⁴¹ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’ ⁴⁴ “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ ⁴⁵ “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ ⁴⁶ “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

4) How does God know us? How does he keep track of people that have accepted him or denied him? (DH)

a. Romans 8:16

- i. ¹⁶The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

b. Matthew 10:30

- i. ³⁰And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

c. Zephaniah 3:17

- i. The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.

d. Psalm 139

- i. You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. ²You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. ³You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. ⁴Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely. ⁵You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. ⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. ⁷Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? ⁸If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. ⁹If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, ¹⁰even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. ¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," ¹²even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. ¹³For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. ¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. ¹⁷How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand— when I awake, I am still with you. ¹⁹If only you, God, would slay the wicked! Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty! ²⁰They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name. ²¹Do I not hate those who

hate you, LORD, and abhor those who are in rebellion against you? ²² I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies. ²³ Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

5) Why doesn't God do more to control the weather and natural disasters? (DH)

a. Matthew 24:7

- i. ⁷ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

b. Luke 21:25-26

- i. ²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶ People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken.

c. Romans 8:28

- i. ²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

6) Why don't miraculous healings apply to people that lose limbs? (DH)

a. Matthew 15:30

- i. ³⁰ Great crowds came to him, bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute and many others, and laid them at his feet; and he healed them.

b. Matthew 21:14

- i. ¹⁴ The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them.

c. John 5:2-9

- i. ² Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. ³ Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this

condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?”⁷ “Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.”⁸ Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.”⁹ At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

d. Luke 17:11-17

- i. ¹¹ Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance ¹³ and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!” ¹⁴ When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed. ¹⁵ One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?” ¹⁸ Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

7) This is more of a realization. But after death, assuming both husband and wife accepts Jesus, marriage ends. This really saddens me. I really thought I would remain married to Michelle for eternity. Based on my research. That is not true. What are your thoughts? (BK)

a. Mark 12:25

- i. ²⁵ When the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven.

b. John 14:1-3

- i. “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

c. Psalm 16:11

- i. You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

d. 1 Corinthians 2:9

- i. However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived”— the things God has prepared for those who love him—

e. Luke 20: 34-38

- i. ³⁴ Jesus replied, “The people of this age marry and are given in marriage. ³⁵ But those who are considered worthy of taking part in the age to come and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, ³⁶ and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God’s children, since they are children of the resurrection. ³⁷ But in the account of the burning bush, even Moses showed that the dead rise, for he calls the Lord ‘the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ ³⁸ He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive.”

8) If your faith and your faith alone will determine your salvation, what will our actions do (e.g. sinning daily) in determining your final destination? (JT)

a. James 2:26

- i. For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

b. Matthew 7:21-23

- i. ²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

c. 2 Peter 2:20-22

- i. ²⁰ If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and are overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. ²¹ It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. ²² Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and, "A sow that is washed returns to her wallowing in the mud."

9) How do you when you are truly following God's will and not your own? (BM)

a. Galatians 5:22-23

- i. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

b. John 7:17

- i. ¹⁷ Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.

c. Romans 12:1-2

- i. ¹⁷ Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.

d. Psalm 37:4

- i. ⁴ Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

e. Proverbs 3:5-6

- i. ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

10) Why didn't Adam and Eve die when they ate of the tree of knowledge? (BW)

a. Genesis 2:17

- i. ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

b. Genesis 3:22

- i. ²² And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.”

11) What Old Testament scripture is Jesus referencing when he said, “Father, why have you forsaken me?” (BW)

a. Matthew 27:46

- i. ⁴⁶ About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

b. Psalm 22:1

- i. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?

c. Psalm 22:11-17

- i. Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.¹² Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.¹³ Roaring lions that tear their prey open their mouths wide against me.¹⁴ I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me.¹⁵ My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death.¹⁶ Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet.¹⁷ All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me.¹⁸ They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.

d. 1 Peter 2:24

- i. ²⁴ “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”

12) Why is there a God? Why was all this created? Will it ever end? How did it begin? Why did it begin? Why do we live and then die? What was before us? Are there others like us out there? (SM)

a. Genesis 1:27

- i. ²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

b. Psalms 19:1

- i. ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

c. Psalms 97:6

- i. ⁶ The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all peoples see his glory.

d. Isaiah 40:4-5

- i. ⁴ Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

e. Isaiah 43:6-7

- i. ⁶ I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’ Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth—
⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

f. Ephesians 1:4-6

- i. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the

praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

13) How do we better understand our own human potential? God made us rulers of the Earth, and I truly believe we have more 'power' and capabilities than what we see today. Why is there so much 'trial and error' in figuring things out? What is our purpose? (SM)

a. Genesis 11:6

- i. ⁶ The LORD said, “If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.

b. Ephesians 2:10

- i. ¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

c. Ephesians 3:20

- i. ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us

d. Philippians 4:13

- i. ¹³ I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

e. Matthew 7:13-14

- i. ¹³ “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

f. Matthew 17:20

- i. ²⁰ He replied, “Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

g. John 10:10

- i. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

14) Not so sure it's a tough question, but the struggle is always when we ebb and flow out of our connectedness to God. How to get reconnected, to dig in and know he's there in times of doubt & trouble. Since I'm going thru one of these now, I feel quite disconnected and struggling with so many things – trying to seek God in it, but not feeling genuine in my efforts...hmmmm. (DR)

a. John 15:5-8

- i. ⁵“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

b. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22

- i. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil.

c. James 5:16

- i. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

d. Ephesians 2:8-9

- i. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

e. Luke 16:13

- i. ¹³ “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

f. Matthew 6:34 (The Message)

- i. "Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes."

15) Why should we give? (DH)

a. John 3:16-17

- i. ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

b. Matthew 5:16

- i. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

c. Colossians 3:23-24

- i. Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

d. Luke 18:24-25, 29-30

- i. ²⁴ Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”
- ii. ²⁹ “Truly I tell you,” Jesus said to them, “no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God ³⁰ will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.”

e. 2 Corinthians 8:8-9

- i. ⁸ I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. ⁹ For you know the grace of

our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

f. Luke 21:1-4

- i. As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. ² He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. ³ “Truly I tell you,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others. ⁴ All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”

g. Matthew 16:25

- i. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

h. Luke 12:48

- i. ...From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.