

Ready for the Question?

“Adam, where are you”? Genesis 3:9

The famous parlance, ‘ready for the question’, is used in many meetings to get ready for the vote on a matter. It signifies that discussion has ended, and all participants are ‘ready for the question’, of ‘All in favor’?

Truly, questions are more important than answers, for without questions there would be no answers and conversation would be meaningless. Questions provide boundaries and parameters and permit the hearer to think carefully about the response. In ancient Greece, Socrates developed a prosaic style of argument by posing important philosophical questions, intended to promote singular, independent and reflective thinking and thus to garner the truth and to arrive at full knowledge on a matter.

I got to thinking that perhaps the Socratic method did not begin with Socrates and Plato, but it began with God Himself and continued throughout Biblical history. Socrates’ dialogues consisted of four elements—the plot or the trend of the conversation, the participants, their reasoning and their style of response.

In Genesis 3:8, God calls out, “Adam, “Where are You”? Of course, God already knows. Adam responds, “I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself”. The dialogue continues, ‘Who told you that you were naked’? Before Adam can respond, another question follows, “Have you eaten of the tree, whereof I told commanded thee that thou should not eat”? Adam now responds, “the woman that you gave me...”, putting the onus fully back on God, who now asks the woman, “What is this that you have done”, and the woman blames the serpent. In this manner God reveals His wisdom, His patience and character in dealing with fallen man. He permits Adam to reflect on his actions and to explain them by describing his condition and emotions.

Today, God engages each of us in reflective conversation, using the Socratic method. Are you ready for the question? “Child, are you ready for my return”, or shall I tarry a little while longer?” Well, Lord, I’ve got just a few things to clear up—give me more time”. Well, why can’t you clear it up today”? Now, is the accepted time; now is the day of salvation. Time is at an end for each of us individually, for we know not when we may be called away from this earth to the portals of the heavenly gate. **Is all well with your soul today?** <https://youtu.be/E8HffdyLd0c>

