



New Apostolic Church USA

The earnest question – Written by District Apostle Leonard Kolb
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Already early in Scripture, we read that God used questions to evoke self-examination and introspection. To Adam – *Where are you?* And to Eve – *What is this you have done?* Jesus also continued in this manner as the gospels record over 300 questions that He asked of those around Him. For example, *Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?* Or *Do you love Me?*

Over these past weeks, I have thought about a word in Psalms 31: 14-15: *But as for me, I trust in You, O Lord; I say, You are my God. My times are in Your hand...*

This word so boldly expresses David's confidence in God and indicates to us that life is composed of various "times" or seasons. Christians do not have separate lives, but one life, a life centered around Jesus Christ, yet with various seasons. Sometimes we are together in the most intimate fellowship with Christ and each other in the celebration of Holy Communion. And at other times, we may be alone, much the same as David was in the pasture. Oft-times in his Psalms, we read that he asked himself many questions... *If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?* (Psalm 130:3)

Now, in this season, we have an opportunity to reflect on *our* personal relationship with Jesus, just Him and me. Like David, it is well that we also ask ourselves some questions to more fully open our thoughts and conscientiousness.

I found this prose from an author, Friedrich A Tholuck (1799-1877) helped me, and I want to share it with you:

*This be ever my confession, my concern, the earnest question:
Does the Lord reign in my heart?
Am I in His grace abiding, is His Holy Spirit guiding?
That from Him, I may not part? That from Him, I may not part...*

*Do I truly live in Jesus, on the vine both strong and vig'rous?
Drawing life and sap from Him?
Is my love for Him inspiring, cross and sorrow not denying?
Putting all my trust in Him? Putting all my trust in Him...*

*Do I love Christ Jesus only? Or has worldly lust grown in me?
Tempting me here to transgress?
Of His grace have I partaken, have I worldly things forsaken?
Would I Him alone possess? Would I Him alone possess...*

*Is He with me when I wander, when I stand or sit and ponder?
Till His face I clearly see?
Of my heart has He possession to resist and fight aggression,
Gaining life and liberty? **Gaining life and liberty...***

Perhaps, you recognize it... *This be ever my confession*, hymn #112, in our English hymnal.