

Discussion Questions for *Does God Believe in You?*

1. Describe your most vivid experience of God's presence. Where did it happen? When? What did it feel like?
2. How would you characterize the current vitality of your own "spiritual self-esteem"?
3. Reflect on your experience as a child. Did your parents "adore" you? How did they show their love? Or did you feel underappreciated, ignore or rejected?
4. What keeps you from feeling the affection of God's name "Beloved" for you?
5. List all the means you currently use to seek to pay attention to God's presence in your everyday life.
6. What is one spiritual discipline you can undertake that could help you pay attention to God's presence in your life? Share this with a trusted friend, and commit yourselves to pray for each other as you set out in this new discipline.
7. What would you like God to whisper in your ear as God embraces you?
8. What practical difference does it make in your life that God holds you in his heart forever?
9. Create a "Friend Job Description" that lists activities, skills and "functions" of a good friend.
10. Create your own first-person conversation with David after he refused to kill Saul. What would you have said to him if you had been one of the men hiding in the cave? Be honest with your feelings.
11. What "habits of the heart" can most helpfully sensitize a person's conscience?
12. "Grade" your current success in three areas of work, family and personal spiritual development. What do you discover/
13. What are you currently doing to deepen the well of your spiritual life?
14. Reflect on a childhood attempt at cover-up. How was it similar to or different from adult cover-ups in your experience?
15. React to this statement: "We will not know true spiritual self-esteem until we face the truth of our culpability." Do you agree? Why or why not?

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16. Write a paraphrase of David's confession in Psalm 51, relating it to a time of great failure or sin in your own experience.
17. What is your definition of grace? Write a one-sentence definition that expresses what grace feels like to you.
18. "What God wants from you is honest, human spirituality." Reflect on this and describe "honest, human spirituality."
19. Write a letter to God that honestly expresses your feelings about your relationship with him.
20. Create a list of suggestions for ways you might speak the truth in love or rebuke "in Jesus' name."
21. Describe your best memory of a lesson in home-grown faith—when you were a child, or with your own children, or in someone else's family.
22. List five things that you would most like people to remember about you. If you are a parent, what do you want your kids to learn from you? Have you ever shared these with your kids? Write a letter to your children.
23. Reflect on your feelings about aging, the elderly and societal attitudes toward the elderly.
24. "Build an altar in every corner of your life." Where can you build an altar to God today?
25. What difference does it make for you that God is your Shepherd?
26. Do you most need to move into the quiet waters of attention or the streets of human need?

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