



PART ONE - Study Guide

September 16, 2012

By Carey Madding and Dan Roseman

When asked a question, we typically have several responses. We can become defensive, we can really listen, we can become lecturing “know-it-alls”—or we can be just plain stumped. Jesus is our example in all things. Take time over the next few weeks to look at the Gospels. See how Jesus handled His “off the cuff” responses. Now, practice it in your Life Group. We’ll be taking a look at some questions that were asked as part of our live Q&A session this weekend.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) I can honestly say that when I am asked a question about my faith, I am (or I become) _____.

Into the Bible

- 2) *“When you die, do you go to heaven immediately if you are a Christian?”* This question, and many more like this one that dealt with heaven, death, or our lives in eternity, was asked this past weekend. Check out these Scriptures that deal with just one part of this topic. Are believers with God immediately—or is there a purgatory-type waiting room?
 - a. 2 Corinthians 5:1-8
 - b. Philippians 1:21-24
 - c. Luke 23:39-43

OFF THE CUFF

PART ONE – STUDY GUIDE

- d. Genesis 5:24 & Hebrews 11:5
 - e. 2 Kings 2:11
- 3) *"I grew up seeking peace in my conflicted life/family. Now I know through following Christ that true peace is not the absence of conflict. Please discuss how/why God's Peace is different from the "world's peace."*
- a. John 14:27
 - b. Matthew 5:9
 - c. 1 Peter 3:11
 - d. Philippians 2:3-4
- 4) *"When you feel like you're waiting a long time on what to do in a situation, is it OK to do any sort of trial and error during the waiting?"* This question is about finding out God's will. Mike used Paul as an example, so let's look at some of Paul's writings.
- a. Acts 16:6-9
 - b. 1 Corinthians 16:7
 - c. Philippians 2:23
 - d. 1 Timothy 3:14

OFF THE CUFF

PART ONE – STUDY GUIDE

- 5) *"What does cultivate your faith mean?" "How do you get the faith? Sometimes I do not know what I believe."* This question appeared several times and in several ways.
- a. Mike mentioned some practical things you can do to stay connected to God, Jesus and the Body of Christ, His Church. What are they? Hint, think of a 4-legged stool.

In addition, let's look at these scriptures:

- b. Mark 9:24
- c. Matthew 28:17

How Does This Apply?

- 6) Mike was given several questions that he either chose not to answer—or he reframed in a less offensive way. One was about Muslims. Another was about suicide. He explained he didn't want to "give someone permission" to proceed with a suicide attempt. He also explained that some questions need a face-to-face encounter. What are some other things that come into play on some of these questions?
- a. Luke 10:25-26
- b. John 14:6
- c. Ephesians 1:13-14

Digging Deeper on Your Own

- 7) What is your biggest theological question? Do some study on it so you can share with your group, present your thoughts (based on your Biblical study), and then ask for their input and godly wisdom.