

Prayer Project—Living the Questions (15 minutes)
(Listen to Matthew Hooper’s message, Aug. 27, 2009, upon which this is based)

...I WOULD LIKE TO BEG YOU DEAR SIR, AS WELL AS I CAN, TO HAVE PATIENCE WITH EVERYTHING UNRESOLVED IN YOUR HEART AND TO TRY TO LOVE THE QUESTIONS THEMSELVES AS IF THEY WERE LOCKED ROOMS OR BOOKS WRITTEN IN A VERY FOREIGN LANGUAGE. DON'T SEARCH FOR THE ANSWERS, WHICH COULD NOT BE GIVEN TO YOU NOW, BECAUSE YOU WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO LIVE THEM. AND THE POINT IS TO LIVE EVERYTHING. LIVE THE QUESTIONS NOW.

---RAINER MARIA RILKE

1) Read Psalm 139:23-24 three times slowly, opening your heart to God.

*Search me O God and know my heart
Try me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there be any hurtful way in me
And lead me in the way everlasting.*

2) Now just talk to God. Speak openly to Him, as if to a friend.
What questions do you live with, even if you’re now only put them into words for the first time. Questions . . .

- a) About God himself: do you really love me? Why is it hard for me to feel that? Am I forgiven for x? Where were you when . . . ? Are you here even when I don’t feel you? Etc.
- b) About your desires: Lord, why do I have such a strong longing for x? What do I do with these strong sexual desires? How do you look upon them? Why do I want so badly to be good at something? To be well-known or even famous? Etc.
- c) About your relationships: Why do I feel this way about my parents? Siblings? Why am I unsatisfied with my relationships? What more do I want? Are these things you want for me? Why do I feel so lonely sometimes?
- d) And many, many more questions . . .

3) This is not a time just for ‘navel gazing,’ but for prayer. After letting these questions roll out--rising and falling away--then ask the Holy Spirit, what are the two or three biggest questions that you should live with God, focusing on, in the coming months? How should you pursue them in prayer, in study, in conversations with peers, in consultation with mentors? Ask the Holy Spirit for just the beginning steps in moving forward into these.

Close by receiving Jesus’ invitation below, knowing you are accepted, loved and that He walks with you.

Come to Me All who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Mt. 11:28.