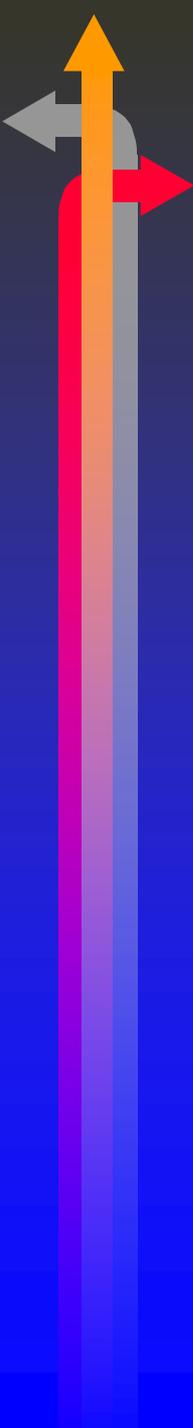


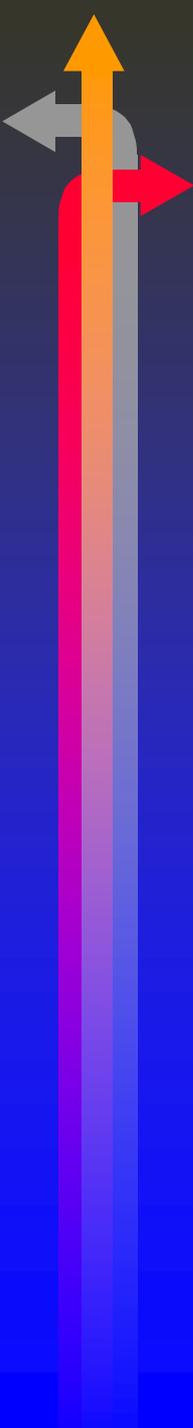
So What About Questions?





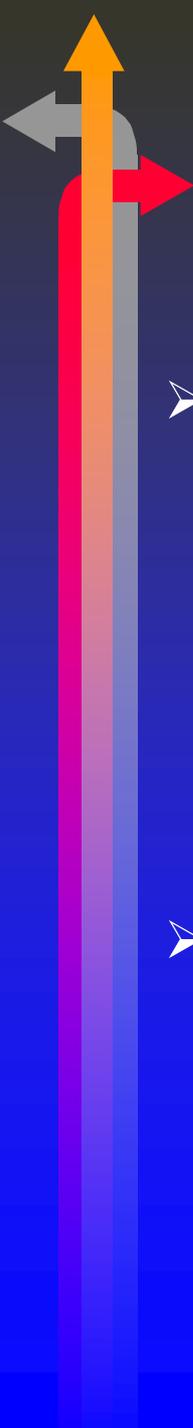
Questions That Help Bring Clarity

- Can you think of a more gracious (or another appropriate biblical term) way to say (or respond to) that?
- What exactly did you do? (instead of “Did you do that?”)
- What went through your mind when you did/said that?
- What did you want (long for, crave) when you did/said that?
- Are you more concerned about pleasing yourself or pleasing God?



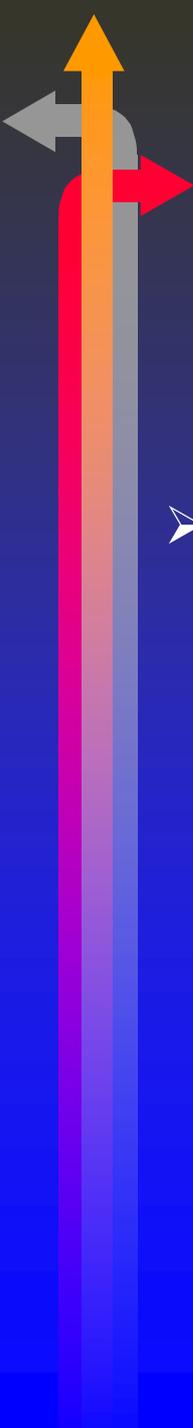
Questions That Help Bring Clarity

- How exactly was God glorified by what you said or did?
- Did you pray about that decision before you made it?
- What was the biblical basis for that decision?
- How did those words build up or minister grace to that person?
- If I were to ask whoever observed the behavior in question if what you did was right, what would she (or he) say?



How To Ask Questions

- You are not attempting to necessarily interpret the answers given, or setting yourself up to false conclusions because of the lack of information before the first session, this is just doing some probing before the session so that you can be better prepared.
- Your thoughts and PRAYERS upon the incomplete data on the questionnaire are to prepare you, you are just thinking though the case before it comes to you, that is all.

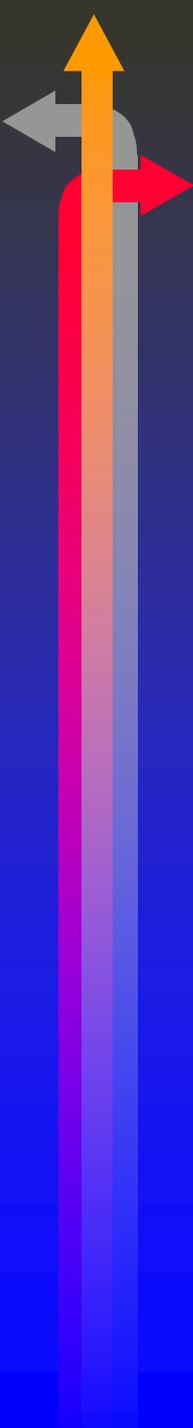


How To Ask Questions

- It can be as simple as making a two column list from the counseling questionnaire....

COLUMN ONE: what I know

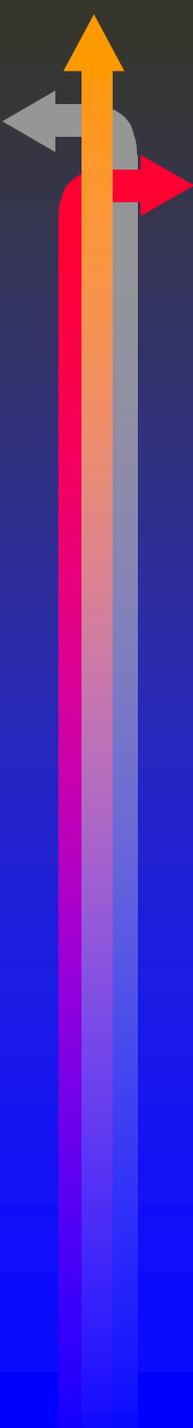
COLUMN TWO: what I don't know but need to ask about



So What About Questions?

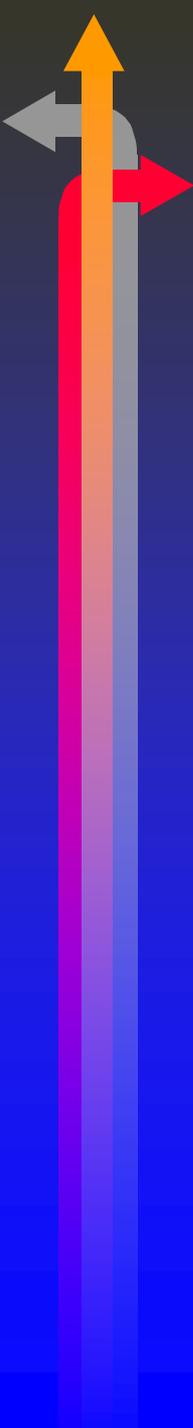
- Questions that clarify should be questions that are thoughtful and gracious, relevant and produce facts.
- When you ask a question concentrate on root issues not surface issues.
- Good questions help with good discernment and produce facts that will be stepping stones to help an individual from the heart level.

1 Thessalonians 5:21 but test everything; hold fast what is good.



What Kind of Questions To Ask

- 1) What do you love? Is there something you love more than God or your neighbor?
- 2) What do you want? What do you desire? What do you crave, long for, wish? Whose desires do you obey?
- 3) What do you seek? What are your personal expectations and goals? What are your intentions? What are you working for?
- 4) Where do you bank your hopes? What hope are you working toward or building your life around?
- 5) What do you fear? Fear is the flip side of desire. For example, if I desire your acceptance, then I fear your rejection.

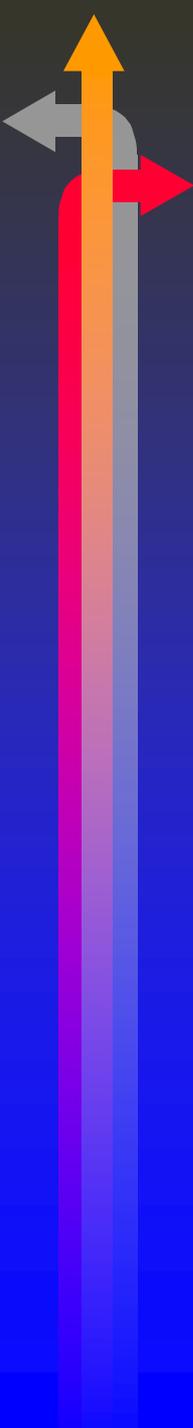


What Kind of Questions To Ask

6) What do you feel like doing? This is a synonym for desire. Sometimes we feel like eating a gallon of ice cream, or staying in bed, or refusing to talk, etc.

7) What do you think you need?

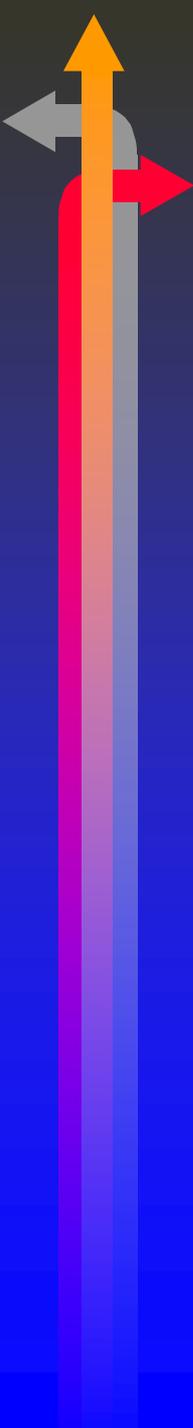
8) What are your plans, agendas, strategies, and intentions designed to accomplish? What are you really going after in the situations and relationships of life? What are you really working to get?



What Kind of Questions To Ask

9) What makes you tick? What sun does your planet revolve around? Where do you find your garden of delight? What lights up your world? What food sustains your life? What really matters to you? What are you living for?

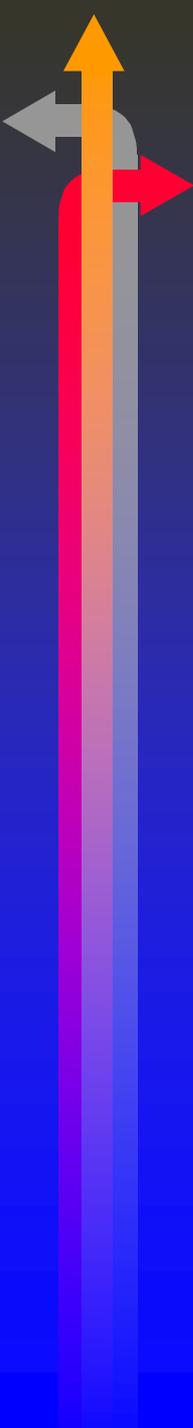
10) Where do you find refuge, safety, comfort, and escape? When you are fearful, discouraged, and upset, where do you run? Do you run to God for comfort and safety or to something else? (To food, to others, to work, to solitude?)



What Kind of Questions To Ask

11) What do you trust? Do you functionally rest in the Lord? Do you find your sense of well-being in His presence and promises? Or do you rest in something or someone else?

12) Whose performance matters to you? Do you get depressed when you are wrong or when you fail? Have you pinned your hopes on another person? Are you too dependent on the performance of your husband, wife, children or friends?



What Kind of Questions To Ask

13) Whom must you please? Whose opinion counts? From whom do you desire approval or fear rejection? Whose value system do you measure yourself against? In whose eyes are you living?

14) Who are your role models? Who are the people you respect? Who do you want to be like? Who is your "idol"? (In our culture, this word is used for role model.)



How To Help People Answer Questions

Psa 119:34 Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.

Psa 119:104 Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

Psa 119:125 I am your servant; give me understanding, that I may know your testimonies!

Psa 119:130 The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

Psa 119:144 Your testimonies are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live.

Psa 119:169 Let my cry come before you, O LORD; give me understanding according to your word!