

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH

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Krista Horning's Questions

August 6, 1999

1. *What should I do when kids stare and laugh at me?*
2. *Sometimes I'm sad that I'm made this way. How can I accept the way that I am?*
3. *Elisa is good at everything she does. How can I keep from being jealous?*
4. *Because bad things happen to me, I complain a lot. How can I stop and see the good in things?*

Pastor Michael's First Response

September 20, 1999

Dear Krista,

Mrs. Michael and I are looking forward to our visit with you and your family tonight and are thankful for the chance to talk with you about the good questions you have asked. Thanks for asking them!

There is a lot that could be said in response to your questions. I will write some things in this letter and we will be able to say some more when we are together but it would probably be too much to say all at once. So let's begin a conversation which I hope will continue over the years as you grow in your knowledge of the Lord, as you mature in faith and as we walk with you and your parents through the challenges of our earthly life.

On the surface, the answer to your questions are simple and straight-forward. The Bible gives us very clear direction on how to deal with people who make fun of us and how to respond to disappointment in life and how to handle jealousy. The questions you have asked represent struggles that many Christians have, not just those who have Asperger's Syndrome. These struggles are common to the fight of faith and the Bible has much to say about them.

For example the simple answer to the question "*What should I do when kids stare and laugh at me?*" is to bless them and pray for them. Remember Jesus and follow His example as he hung on the cross while people were hurling insults at him and prayed "*Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.*"

Blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. "Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matt. 5:11,12)... But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; (Matt. 5:44)

A simple answer to the question “*How can I keep from being jealous?*” is to clothe yourself with love which according to 1 Corinthians is not jealous. Fill your mind and heart up with the Word of God which will leave little room for jealousy.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col. 3:12-17)

Through His word, the Lord gives us much truth and guidance to help us live our lives in a way that glorifies Him. Your parents and your church family is ready to do all we can to show you these things and to teach you how to find them for yourself.

Underneath the simple questions you are asking are bigger questions that relate to how you understand yourself and how you understand God. Questions like “How can God love me and still create me with Apert’s Syndrome?” or “If God is powerful enough to heal me, why doesn’t He?” or “Why do I have to suffer with this condition and not my sister?” These questions are not so easy to answer but I assure you there are answers to them and million other hard questions in life! As you grow in faith, you will grow in your understanding of these things. As your understanding grows, and as God continues to pour His Love and His power into your life, the stronger you will be and the better you will be able to respond to the hard things that you have to face.

Krista, there are some things which you must be absolutely certain about as you grow. No matter what happens. No matter how you feel. There are some things that you should never, never, never, never, never, never stop believing. Here are some of the things that I have thought of. The Bible teaches these things to be true.

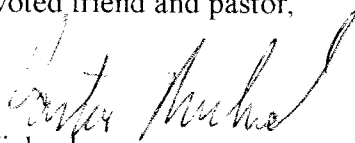
- ❖ God is good. He is always good. There is never a time when He is not good.
- ❖ There is purpose in everything God does—including making us the way He does.
- ❖ All of God’s purposes are right and good.
- ❖ God’s main purpose in all that He does is to make His greatness (His glory) known.
- ❖ God always accomplishes His purpose. Nothing can keep Him from doing what He decides to do.
- ❖ God’s love for us is perfect love.
- ❖ God keeps his promises. He never has and never will break a promises. Therefore you can trust him

- ❖ God is the boss. He can do whatever He wants to with us. We must trust God knows what he is doing and he will never act in a way that is not good or not loving.
- ❖ Satan is a liar.
- ❖ Satan tries to hurt our faith by telling us lies about ourselves. He controls us with lies.
- ❖ The way to fight Satan's lies is with the truth. *"You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free"*. Free to trust. Free To obey. Free to love your sister. Free to be thankful.
- ❖ We tend to see things in terms of our life on earth. God views things in terms of eternity.
- ❖ Our life on earth is very short, eternity is very long.
- ❖ You are just visiting here. Our real home is in heaven.
- ❖ You will not have Apert's Syndrome in heaven.

Krista, I believe with all my heart that God has created you for a purpose that is very good. In His love and wisdom, He has decided that you ~~can show~~ you will be able to show His greatness more with Apert's than you could have without it. I am excited to watch and see how your life unfolds.

I have more to say but I'll wait until we visit you at your home.

Your devoted friend and pastor,


David Michael