

# Gathering Information

11/14/16

**THE GOSPEL  
INSTITUTE**

# Introduction

1. Gathering information simply refers to the ongoing dynamic of normal interpersonal relationships of drawing out the relevant facts of a person's life-experiences.
2. No meaningful relationships can be developed or sustained without gleaning vital and relevant facts about the person, the problems, and the person's perspectives about
  - a. Himself, his problems, God, and the solutions to his problems.
  - b. The historical patterns of thinking and behaviors regarding those problems.

# Failure to Gather Information

1. Leads to false interpretations and skewed understanding of circumstances.
2. Will diminish ability to minister biblically, may prevent any good from coming from your relationship.
3. Will diminish your ability to share and apply the Gospel in relevant ways.
4. Is foolish and can be sinful, e.g. Eli accused Hannah of drunkenness, (1 Sam. 1:12-16)

## Gather Information - a Biblical Command and Warning

1. <sup>13</sup>If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.
2. <sup>15</sup>An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.
3. <sup>17</sup>The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him. (Prov.18:13,15,17)
4. <sup>17</sup>Then Eli answered, “Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to him.”  
<sup>18</sup>... Then the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad. (1 Sam.1:4-18)

# Biblical Law - Gather Information

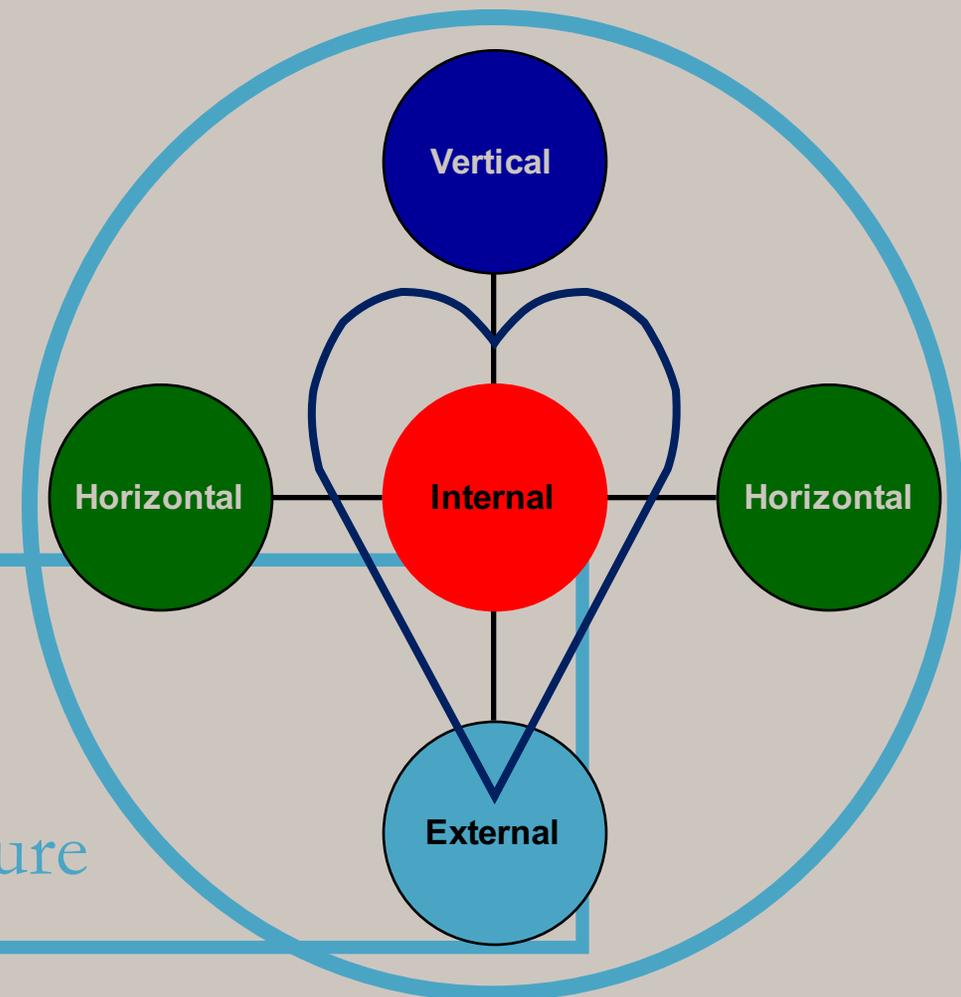
1. “Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?” (Jn. 7:51)
2. “If anyone kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death on the evidence of witnesses. But no person shall be put to death on the testimony of one witness. (Num. 35:30)

# Where to Begin – You and the Goal

1. In meekness, considering yourself (Gal.6:1-2)
2. Know who you are - a beggar pointing another beggar to the Bread
3. Know your role – ambassador - not a mechanic (2 Cor.5:14-21)
4. Know your goal – the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:14-21)
5. Whoever belittles his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent. (Pr. 11:12)
6. Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance... (Prov. 1:5)

# Where to Begin – with the Whole Person

1. Vertical –Spiritual; worship
2. Mind, Will, Emotion;  
Desires of the Heart
3. Horizontal Relationships



# Where to Begin – with the Whole Person

A biblical view of the nature of man

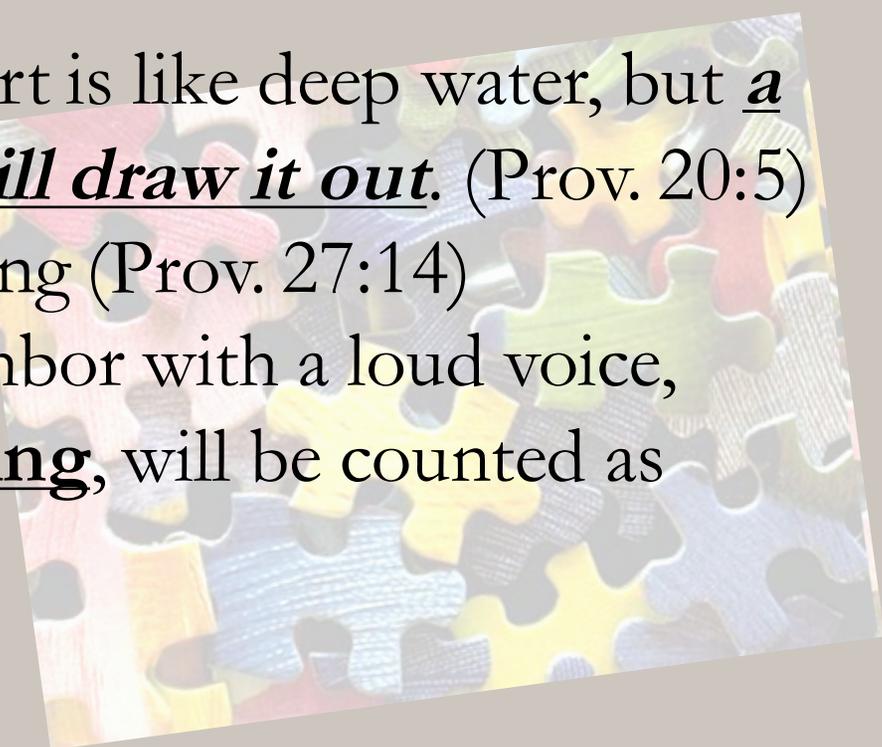
1. Physical – existing in a physical “temple”
2. Spiritual - will exist through eternity future, non-material aspects
3. Emotional - like God - experience emotion
4. Relational - like God - relates to other people in fellowship
5. Intellectual - like God – rational, logical, thinks, reasons, considers in the heart
6. Volitional/Responsible - given commands, expected to respond in all 4 dimensions
7. Desiring being (vs. instinct-driven), created with desires that long to be fulfilled-Worshippers who ***‘Do what we do because we want what we want’***

# How To Begin – Attitude and Timing

1. Will Rogers - “I never yet met a man I didn’t like”
2. Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.

(Prov. 17:27)

1. The purpose in a man's heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out. (Prov. 20:5)
2. Choose an appropriate timing (Prov. 27:14)
  - a. Whoever blesses his neighbor with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, will be counted as cursing. (Prov. 27:14)
  - b. Esther; Abigail



# How To Begin – Setting

1. Not alone - protects against slander, “spoken of as evil” – (Rom.14:16)
2. Not alone - wisdom of others (Prov.11:14)
3. Both parties, if possible - bring opposing parties into the discussion from the beginning
4. Setting environment is significant
  - a. Physical comfort, furniture relationships
  - b. Minimal distraction, quiet, confidential
  - c. Placement
  - d. Include observers within ‘the circle’
  - e. Clock, tissue, water, phones, etc.

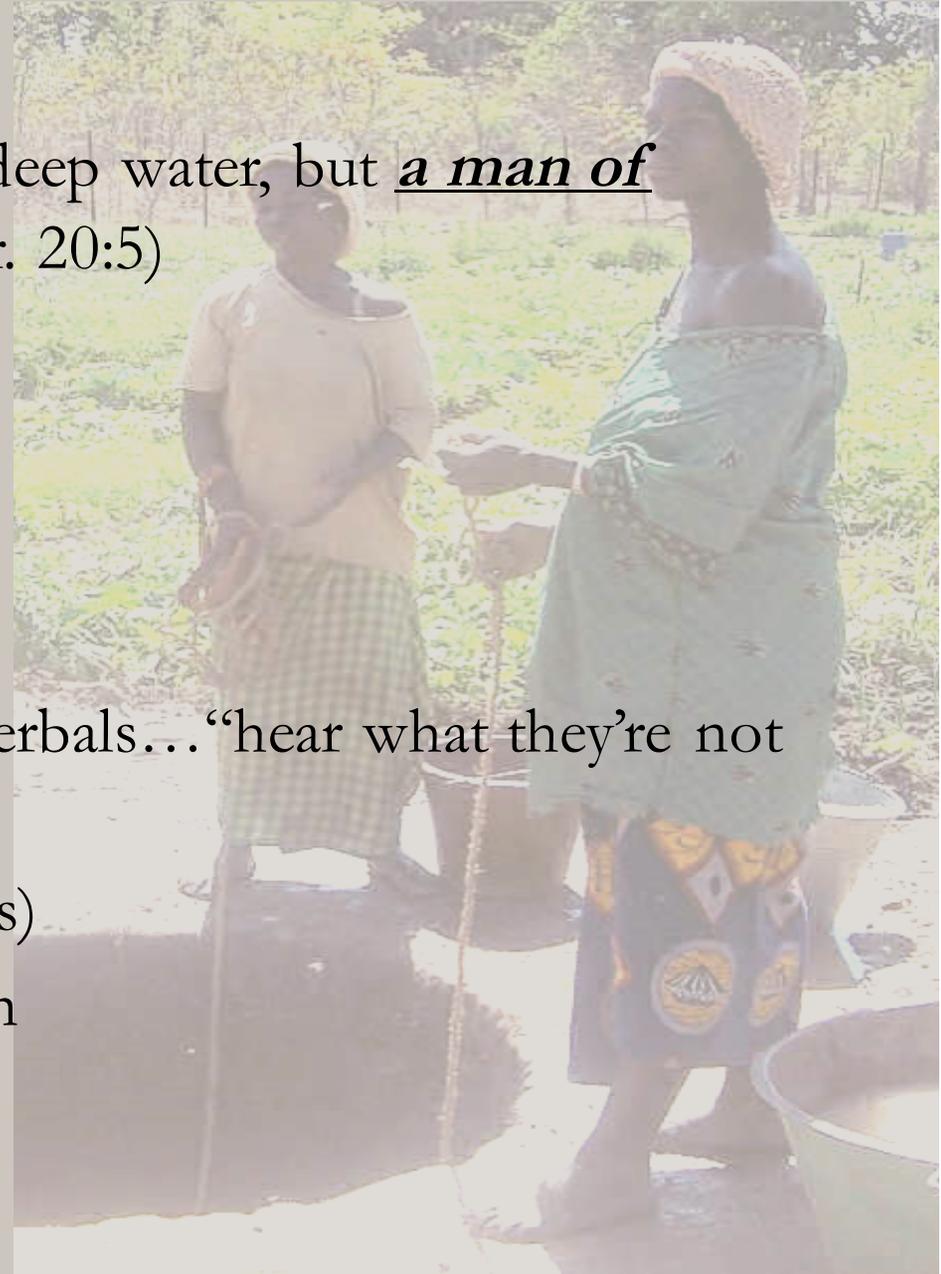
# How to Begin - Observation

1. Intentional, continual observing “halo data”
2. Attitude
3. Visual evidence, body-language, facial expressions, (especially between couples)
4. Hygiene, weight (extremes), smells (smoke, alcohol, excessive perfume), make-up
5. Actions (or lack of actions), countenance, worn Bible, forgetfulness
6. Home address, condition
7. Vehicle type and condition, clothing, posture
8. Language, tone, vocabulary
9. Overall lifestyle; social media

# How to Begin – Listen

The purpose in a man's heart is like deep water, but *a man of understanding will draw it out.* (Pr. 20:5)

1. Patience and time (rope)
2. Questions – (buckets)
3. Listen with “sanctified curiosity”
4. Observe, pay attention to non-verbals...“hear what they’re not saying”
5. Ask follow-up questions (buckets)
6. Listen to others close to situation



# Gathering Relevant Facts about...

1. the person
2. the problems
3. the person's perspectives about...
  - a. himself
  - b. his problems
  - c. God
  - d. The solutions to his problems
4. the historical patterns of thinking and behaviors regarding those problems

# Questions - Understanding the Person

1. What did you get that you didn't want?
2. What did you lose that you 'needed'?
3. What did you want so badly that you were willing to sin to get?
4. What did you need that you were willing to sin when you lost it?
5. Questions expose motivation, idols, foundational values, traumas, pain, ideologies, etc.

# Questions - Understanding the Problem

1. Extensive questions (fishing net, shot-gun, panorama)
2. Intensive questions (fish hook, rifle, zoom-lens)
3. “my husband and I had a fight last night”
4. What did that “fight ” look like?
5. Define what you mean when you say “\_\_\_\_\_”
6. Tell me about that.
7. Tell me more about that.
8. Describe what was going on.

# Questions – Understanding Perspectives

1. Vertical, internal, horizontal, external
2. View of God's power, character, involvement, nearness, love, mercy/compassion, purposes, eternity
3. View of himself; depraved or deprived? Victim-mentality vs. being a victim; entitled vs. grateful; loved or rejected
4. View of others – suspicious vs. trusting; bitter vs. loving/forgiving; selfish vs. loving
5. View of material things

# Questions – Understanding Patterns

1. When did this problem, experience first begin?
2. How long has this been going on?
3. What have you done in response?
4. What typically happens when \_\_\_\_\_?
5. Look for learning styles; audio, visual, hands-on experience.
6. Hot-buttons; vivid, personal language paints their picture.
7. Note repetitive words used in conversation.

# Questions Draw Out the Heart & Teach

1. What prevented you from \_\_\_\_\_?
2. How did \_\_\_\_\_ prevent you from pleasing God?
3. How did he/her prevent you from pleasing God?
4. If you have a do-over, what might you do differently in order to please God in that situation?
5. What is God more concerned about in this conversation, your responses or his/her sins?
6. What caused you to conclude that \_\_\_\_\_?
7. What causes you to conclude that \_\_\_\_\_ should be your goal?

## Use “S.M.A.R.T.” Questioning

1. S. tell me about the **SITUATION?**
2. M. What was going on in your **MIND?**
3. A. What were your **ACTIONS?**...What did you do?
4. R. What were the **RESULTS** of your actions?
5. T. Did you get the **TROPHY** you were after?...Did you get what you wanted?

### **Did GOD get what GOD wanted?**

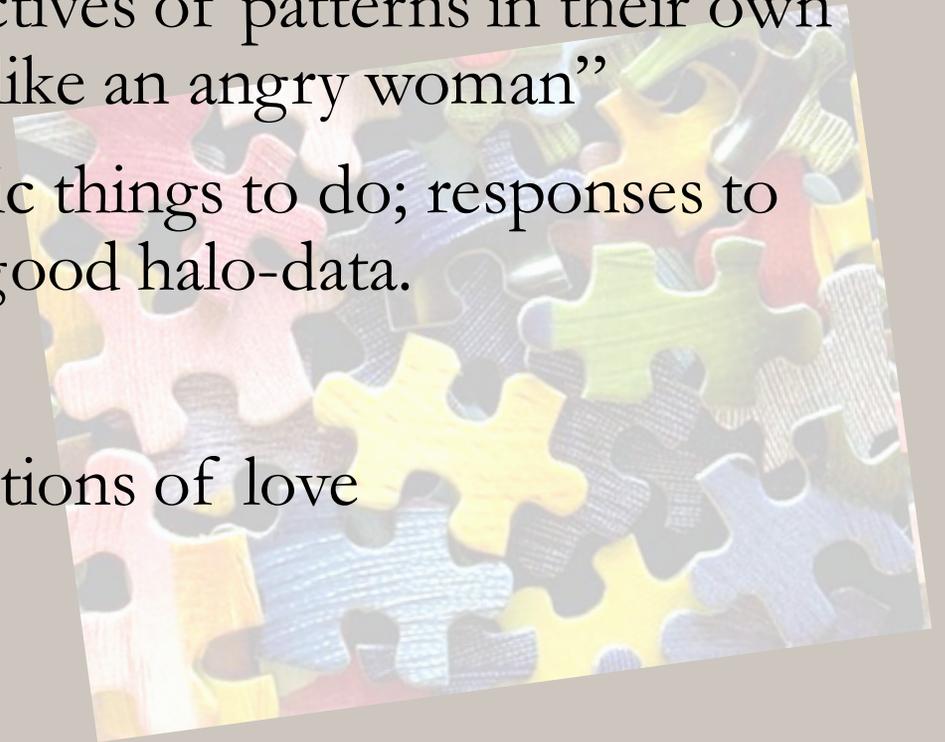
You can not say, “you made me mad”...your evaluation of the situation is what produced your anger.

# Questions Can Motivate

1. Questions emulate God and Christ.
2. Questions engage the mind/heart, appeal to the conscience, turn the person towards Christ and His Word.
3. Questions can reduce defensiveness
4. Questions in a logical series get to the issues of the heart
5. Why not “Why”? “How-come?” vs. “why?”
6. Biblical counseling always includes wise questions

# Gathering Information through Homework

1. Personal Profile
2. Devotion logs, to-do lists, surveys,
3. Summaries of sessions, books, DVD'S, CD's
4. Journaling, ask their perspectives of patterns in their own journaling ... "That sounds like an angry woman"
5. Active assignments – specific things to do; responses to home-work assignments is good halo-data.
6. Put-off and put-on lists
7. Acts of service - demonstrations of love
8. Yellow Card



# Homework

1. “X-Ray Questions” by David Powlison in Seeing With New Eyes