

Let me ask a question. For what purpose do students study and get a degree?

Maybe what came to your mind was 'to learn the facts and skills necessary to get a job in the field of their studying'.

When Henry B. Eyring was the President of Ricks college, he pointed out that facts and skills have a way of growing useless at a staggering rate. The world is changing and what we learn or what we teach may be out of date very shortly. He points out that what we **need** to know is how to ask good questions. These good questions lead students through patterns that will really matter to them in the long run as the world changes and as we all change ourselves.

The skill of asking questions leads to inspiration and revelation. **This** is true education. He stated that "Education is what happens inside you, not around you" This type of education, will serve you, not only in your career, but in your family, in your church callings and community service. This type of education helps us on our path in becoming disciples of Christ.

So how do I ask good questions and then get good answers to progress in my growth and education? Let's look at a good example. Joseph Smith knew how to ask good questions. He asked about which religion to affiliate with; "What is to be done?, Who of all these parties are right; or, are they all wrong together?, If any one of them be right, which is it, and how shall I know it?" These were no frivolous, unimportant questions.

They had a clear purpose and problem to solve. He didn't want to ask the questions just because the questions existed. They were important to him and relevant to his life. Then, as he pondered the question and came upon the scripture in James 1:5, he knew it was the process to find the answer, which led him to the grove to pray which led to revelation.

It is difficult to receive revelation unless we are living a certain way. President Eyring stated that rules we follow on missions are not simply to see how much you can take in the way of discipline. It is because we have learned that it is hard to have revelation unless you are living in a certain way that the Holy Spirit can speak to us." The same goes for the high standards set here at BYU, it's because it's necessary for true education.

There are many questions, some better than others. How can we use good questions to make the courses here at BYU, environments of revelation? President Eyring says it's hard to see which questions matter unless you have some vision of your own life and of the world. The purpose and opportunity of college is to give people that perspective.

We care about it, we pray about it and we get some guidance for ourselves then we might be prepared to see some of the patterns that might be valuable for us in our education and to be prepared for changes in the future. It needs to be taught to you by the spirit if it's true.

Cecil O. Samuelson, of the Seventy tells us that "Careful and thoughtful questions both from and to us are essential parts of life. How we frame those we ask and how we respond to those that come to us will in large measure determine ... happiness in this life and qualify in eternal life".

And he points out that the phrase 'it mattereth not' is found more than a dozen times in both the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine of Covenants. And that this may be the answer to many of our questions thus we need to move on and act on the answers we have already received or ask a better question. We

can also benefit from those who have already gotten answers with our own witness from the Holy Ghost, then move on to solve new problems and focus on those of most relevance for us.

I can't show what a good question looks like, because this varies for each course, each instructor, and each student. Just make sure there is a clear purpose or problem to solve. Be careful not to focus on the unimportant questions to the exclusion of good ones, focus on which questions are relevant. Questions will lead to more good questions and, we will learn line upon line, precept upon precept in our progression to become true disciples of Christ.