

All the answers?

What has happened to Sue, I wouldn't wish on anyone, but so many good things have come out of it that I'm almost teetering on the edge of doing so. I could go on for ages about all the ways God has blessed us in it and through it – but then I do, don't I? I go on... and on... and on, as Sue graciously reminds me every now and then.

One particular joy that has come out of it is time with people, time with you. So many of you have been to visit us; thank you, it's been a real joy! Let's not stop doing it, please. (There's a verse about that, isn't there?! Let's not stop meeting together...)

But when we meet face to face, and we start talking about the Lord, and I start getting all excited, there is that ever-present danger of my 'going on'. Worse still is if any of you challenge me on some of the things I've been saying in my writings: I am apt to get a bit vehement and come over as if I've got all the answers. Sorry! And the very fact that I have written so much seems to suggest that I think I have all the answers.

Yes, I'm more excited than ever about my faith, and I think my faith is deeper than it has ever been, but I do still have a lot of doubt, and I definitely don't have all the answers, even though I may give that impression when I start 'going on'.

But I think if the Lord is saying anything to me (and hopefully through me) it's that faithful questioning is GOOD. I can see now that thinking I had all the answers, that I was **right** <full stop>, was probably the cause of my putting other people off from taking Jesus' claims seriously, maybe even my own family.

Probably that's when I argue most strongly against my fellow Christians; it's when they, it's when you, say to me that such and such is definitely the answer because and this scripture proves it. But if you catch me doing exactly that, I'm a hypocrite, sorry. And please point it out to me – you'll be doing us both a favour!

But yes, let's study the scriptures, let's faithfully question one another and the scriptures, let's faithfully question ourselves and our own faith; that way we'll grow in our faith and others will see in our hearts and lives and faces that we've met with someone wonderful!

I wouldn't wish on anyone my experience of being in a sect and then totally losing my faith, but as God has graciously drawn me out of it, through asking the difficult questions, and has shown me just how wonderful the gospel really is, just how wonderful Jesus really is, I'm almost teetering on the edge.

Paul Bev. 17.2.19