

Elder, Tell Me Your Memories

Eighty-One Questions for an Elder Preacher

This is a resource to help produce generational connection. God's plan is not disconnect, but transition, "Old men shall dream dreams and young men shall see visions." Elders' talking of their dream and young men sharing what they see is ideal. Communing together may well be the most daunting task. Use this resource as you'd like.

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1. What is your full name (including maiden name - if applicable)?

2. Where were you born and raised (Be specific)?

3. What did your father do for a living?

4. Tell me about your mother?

5. As a child, what was your family's church background?

6. Tell about the process of your being drawn by the spirit of God. Who witnessed to you? What were the circumstances that drew you to God?

7. How old were you when you were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ? Where were you baptized? Tell me about the circumstances surrounding your baptism.

8. Who was preaching when you were filled with the Holy Ghost? Do you remember what the message was about?

9. After you received the Holy Ghost what was the response of your unsaved family or friends?

10. In your experience, were Oneness Pentecostals persecuted for their experience with God? Tell me an account of such persecution.

11. Were you ever persecuted for your Christian lifestyle being different from others?

12. Tell me about someone in your home church who was a great example to you. Why were they such an example? Give me specific memories of something that person did that impacted you.

13. Who was your first pastor? Tell me about the kind of leader your first pastor was. Do you remember a specific sermon he preached? Why do you remember it?

14. What kind of church services did you have in those times? What sort of music did you have for your church service?

15. Tell me of a time when your home church went through great difficulty?

16. How did the leadership respond to that difficulty?

17. What is the greatest revival you can remember? Be as specific as possible.

18. What is the greatest disappointment you have experienced in your Christian life?

19. What have you done to maintain your Christian consistency to this point? What have been your spiritual disciplines (Prayer, fasting, Bible reading, Bible study, etc)?

20. Did other members of your family also come to know God in the same way you did?

21. Were you instrumental in seeing any other people saved? Tell me about the first time you witnessed to someone.

22. What was your first role of service (other than preaching) in the body of Christ? Who trained you how to fulfill that service?

23. How long had you been part of the church when you began to serve in that way? How old were you?

24. What were some other roles of service (other than preaching) you have been involved in?

25. Of these different roles of service, what did you find most enjoyable? Why?

26. What was the role of service you least enjoyed? Why?

27. What were the forms of outreach and evangelism the church used when you were first saved?

28. What was the most effective form of outreach and evangelism? Why?

29. Who was your closest friend in the church?

30. Why were you so close to each other?

31. What did you and your friend work together on in the kingdom of God?

32. Do you have children? Were they brought up in the church?

33. As a Christian parent, what would you do differently if you had the chance to do it over?

34. What was the greatest struggle you dealt with as a Christian parent?

35. Were you ever involved as a Sunday School teacher? Tell me one of your most vivid memories of that experience?

36. Tell me about some of the times you remember of church members doing physical work on the church building?

37. What was the latest you ever left after a church service? Why did you leave so late that night?

38. Have you ever been instantly healed? Tell me about it?

39. What is the most notable miracle you ever saw with your own eyes?

40. Who were some of the great “old-time” preachers you may have met? What made them so wonderful?

41. Who were some of the great “old-time” evangelists you heard preach? What was so memorable about them?

42. As a younger person, did you ever participate in events on a sectional or district level? Tell me one of your memories of such an experience.

43. Tell me about a great district or national leader you may have known. What made them special?

44. What was the hardest thing about being a Christian for you?

45. Did you ever have a close friend backslide? How did you respond?

46. What sinful habit did you have the hardest time breaking when you got saved?

47. Where did you preach your first sermon? How old were you? Who was the pastor (if there was one)?

48. What did you preach that first time? Did anything memorable happen?

49. What is the funniest thing you recall happening in a church service?

50. What were the most people you saw baptized at one time? Where? What produced that result?

51. Did you travel as an itinerant preacher, evangelist, teacher or music group> What did you learn from that season of life?

52. After you started preaching who was the first elder minister to correct you about something? What did he correct you about?

53. Where did you preach your second sermon? What happened that day?

54. How much pay did you get from your first revival?

55. What was the largest audience you preached to during the first five years of preaching?
During all the years of preaching?

56. What was the smallest audience you preached to during the first five years? Why was the crowd so small?

57. What is the funniest thing you remember saying from the pulpit?

58. Did you attend Bible School or College? Where? Why did you go there?

59. What did you gain from Bible School or College? Would you encourage someone to attend? Why?

60. What is the largest cash offering you ever received from an audience? Were you known as an “offering taker?”

61. Who was known as a great “offering taker?” How did that person manage to do it?

62. Who have been your three closest friends in ministry? Why were you so close?

63. What was your first pastorate? How did you end up going there? How long did you stay?

64. What positive thing happened in your time there?

65. What was the greatest challenge you found while in your first pastorate?

66. Did you ever start a church? Where? How did you get started?

67. What was the outcome of your Church Planting effort?

68. Tell me about each of your pastorates—where they were, how long you were there and what happened – both good and bad?

69. What was the biggest mistake you ever made in dealing with a person in the church?
What did you learn from it?

70. In leading people—how did you keep them praying?

71. How did you keep them reading the Bible?

72. Estimate how many have you seen receive the Holy Ghost in your ministry? What was the most in one service?

73. What has been your greatest joy in ministry?

74. What has been your greatest disappointment in ministry?

75. How many preachers have developed from your ministry? Tell me about each of them. How did you develop them?

76. How did other preachers disappoint you? What response did you choose to make?

77. Did you ever serve in an elected role of leadership in the church organization? What roles?

78. What did you enjoy about organizational service? What did you not particularly enjoy?

79. Tell me about a building project that did not go very well. Why not? What did you do about it?

80. Who has looked to you for influence? Why did they choose you?

81. What has your spouse's role been in those years of ministry? How has it been hard? What has been your spouse's greatest joy?