

Circle the word “when” in each of the verses you wrote in the assignment on the previous page. Why do you suppose the verses didn’t use the word “if” instead?

In Rabbi Ted Falcon’s book *Judaism for Dummies*, he writes, “Although the idea of a complete surrender to faith, a surrender to God, is harmonious with many Christian and Muslim beliefs, it’s much less comfortable for most Jews, who are traditionally taught to question in order to learn more deeply. Judaism tends to encourage individuals to explore their own personal relationship with God. For people who are comfortable with the idea of surrender, God-wrestling is not an easy concept.”³

Certainly Christians are called to a life surrendered to Christ, but surrender does not preclude questions. After all, no one could have been more surrendered to His Father’s will than Jesus on the cross, yet, nailed to that very tree, He cried out one of the most piercing questions ever to erupt from the heart of a man. More on that next week. Falcon’s insight into Judaism, however, is compelling in our present quest, particularly because Christianity cannot be clipped from its Jewish roots without cutting off its Head. Jesus is Jewish. When we come by faith into Christ, Gentiles do not become Jewish, but we do become spiritual descendants of His ancestral line.

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[Jot Galatians 3:29 here.](#)

In ancient Judaism, questions were not squiggly roads to be avoided in the walk of faith. Rather, they were adventures to be taken, where one leans into the learning curves of discussion, deliberation, and healthy debate. Questions were means of discovery, exposing what was both known and not yet known. They were not surfaced proofs of doubt or detours of the weak but often quite the opposite. A true quest requires boots and swords to hack through the thorns and briars to get to the blooms without bleeding.

Christ’s penchant for engaging His audience and baffling His critics through Q&A in His three-year ministry is easily verifiable in the Gospels. What you may find delightful is the proof that it wasn’t a recent development for Him or inconsistent with the rabbinic approaches of His day. Generous amounts of ink were given to Jesus’ infancy and adulthood in Scripture, but we’re offered one small glimpse of Christ’s boyhood.