



## The subtle questions....

- G. Gough

Moving what you think of yourself into a new space is trying  
 When the space is undefined, the people are all unknown  
 Which way does the river flow, pulling you in or pulling you out  
 Must I achieve perfection in the scrutinizing eyes of the onlookers?  
 Must I prove my faith to a further degree than I have or am ready for?  
 Who is holding the shackled scales? Is it my Savior?  
 In God I do trust, adhering to the blind faith which I was taught  
 Brought into an understanding of myself by surprise  
 Well -- it certainly wasn't expected.  
 It's not worth going into all that though because I have gifts to use  
 I should not dwell on the past, there can be so many questions  
 Questions about how I got to where I am  
 I know God has put His calling on me  
 Do you think He *has*? Do you think it's *His* calling?  
 Which passage cements my fate in eternal life?  
 I wouldn't consider myself the best student of the scripture  
 It seems to have a flow and a story that resonates with me

**Which way does the river flow,  
 Pulling you in or pulling you out?**

Is better community found in agreement, free permission without question?  
 It's less honoring to my self that you raise me up because you are so permissive  
 What have I worked for if to just be exactly as I have been and am?  
 But then we talk again and it's that list of things  
 I can try to clean it up one day, but every day I try  
 I stop. I watch the sunset, because it brings peace and calm  
 Should what I do bring peace and calm....and patience and kindness?  
 And that other list of things, I used to know them all by memory  
 They are all good things  
 It's a measuring stick that gets used to determine a specific  
 A measuring stick that becomes a switch to pull me back to the standard  
 That standard that is measured by that same measure stick  
 It's like a round and round and round in circles  
 I think it's understood by most that a theological position only goes so far  
 It's really only practical in every other aspect of human life we live  
 My parents echoed it, my friends did, my youth pastor, all those people  
 Those people that modeled this for me  
 This conversation should be quieted a bit now, it's hard to hear what they're saying  
 I think that one day this conversation will be held outside of me  
 I'm hopeful that this conversation will become more than just a figment of my wrestling



*“Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”*

- Genesis 1:2



*“When all that’s left is wonder and no need to understand, well this cool, clear water running, will be all that I am”*

- B. Raitt

## Friends.

- D. Hartig

I have a friend who is passionate about seeing change for those who have less in this world. She is working toward that – overseas, in a physically and emotionally challenging place – and I miss her terribly.

I have a friend who is completely nuts about kids, and who coaches soccer, and loves Jesus, and is a great example to young people.

I have a friend who knows just about anything you want to know about popular musicians and songs from the 1940’s to current day. Just ask him any question.

I have a friend who is very simple, and has an enormous heart, and values truth, and would do just about anything to help a friend.

I have a friend who is an amazing poet, pouring images and colors and feelings and hopes and disappointments and conundrums into words in ways that are beautiful.

I have a friend who is a nurse. Who is compassionate, and intelligent, and insightful, and who feels deeply the hurts of others.

I have a friend who is an artist, and who engages the local art scene with enthusiasm, promoting the work of other local artists and giving them

encouragement in their creativity.

I have a friend who is a retired educator, and who has the most dry, delightful sense of humor. Who has so much wisdom and experience to share.

I have a friend who is studying to be a nurse, realizing some years after being a “traditional age student” that a

**Sometimes we miss seeing because of what we see.**

nurse is what she is cut out to be. She is working through the frustration of restarting school years after high school.

I have a friend who is off the charts creative, and going to school to develop skills that will match his creativity.

I have a friend who loves tradition, who looks for inspiration to folks who have impacted history in spite of all manner of opposition.

I have a friend who knows me really well, and loves me unconditionally.

(Does it matter if I tell you that each of these friends is gay?)

## For those who want things to be better.....

If you’re reading this, you may have some interest in the conversation between the LGBT and Christian communities. In light of this interest, we’d like to ask you to contribute financially to Bridge Evidence Group’s efforts to improve this conversation. Much of our work is dependent on contributions. We are able to do more or less according to the financial support we receive. If you would like to join in this effort, you can make contributions securely, online via Paypal, from our website.

## First Quarter 2013 Financial Statement

Previous balance	\$4010.02
Total gifts:	\$1700.00
Total expenses:	\$2337.82
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Fund Balance:	\$3372.20

Bridge Evidence Group is a 501(c)(3) organization that is committed to financial transparency and accountability.