

GOD'S WAYS AND THOUGHTS ARE FAR ABOVE OURS

Isaiah 55:8-9

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: God is very aware of our "natural" unbelief, narrow views and fears of Him which lead us to be a bit leery, cautious and too often downright denying even His existence. God told the people of Israel, through His prophet Isaiah (text) that "*His thoughts were not their thoughts, neither was His ways like their ways and the difference was that they were as far apart as the heavens were from the earth...*" People have not changed through the centuries and that same attitude still exists today.

I. GOD'S WAYS AND THOUGHTS ARE STILL FAR ABOVE OURS

1. For one thing, God is God and He is exalted far above any of us.

- God is in heaven on His throne, we are down here upon earth, His footstool.
- God is creator, governor of all the universe.
 - All is subject to His control and for His own good.
- There are innumerable armies of angels in heaven.
 - There are countless fallen angels in hell.
- Look upward at the numerous planets, considering our big, vast world is but a speck, a single grain of sand upon which we, people, live.
- Are not God's purposes, thoughts and ways be far above ours?
- Is not God competent to be judge over His own designs, does not He understand everything?
- How far must His thoughts and ways, as King of Kings, Lord of Lords exceed ours
- How little able are we to judge God and His works.

2. God's nature and perfection raises Him infinitely above us.

- God is self-existent, independent, all sufficient, infinite, eternal, pure and perfect in intelligence.
 - Who are we?
- We are dependent, finite, imperfect, frail, dying beings, full of infirmities, temptations, prejudices, reason blinded by selfishness.
- God is superior to us in wisdom, being the all wise God. Even the "foolishness" of God is wiser than any of us.
- God is far more able to bring good out of bad/evil than any of us ever began to think about.
- If we have wise men, then how much more must the ways and thoughts of God exceed theirs.

3. God's knowledge is infinitely superior to that of all of us combined.

- We started from dirt! We have little knowledge of things of today and are totally ignorant of the future.
- God knows all things and has a perfect knowledge of all creatures, for He made them all for what they are and keeps them.
- God knows everything that has ever happened, everything that is happening and everything that is going to happen.
- All this perfect knowledge, thoughts and ways are far above those of us who are His created beings.
- We are but ignorant, short-sighted, weak fallible people.

4. God is infinitely above us in power.

- There really is no contest to this area. We are weak and frail and our lives are but proof of that.
- God is all-powerful and with Him nothing is impossible, doing things which we cannot even begin to conceive or understand.
- God's thoughts and ways are indeed far above ours.

5. God is eternal and unchangeable, but we are frail, born yesterday and die tomorrow, constantly changing.

- Just take a look at ourselves and how unreliable, unsteady, undetermined, unknowing we are, who can't even make up our minds, cannot be original in anything.
- There is God, who had no beginning, cannot change, who is the same yesterday, today and forever.

6. Then God is perfect in His giving and holiness where we are selfish and sinful.

- Face it! We love our sin, the very thing which God hates.
 - Therefore God's thoughts and ways are certainly different from ours.
- Sin has blinded our understanding, hardened our hearts, defiled our whole being, exposes us to uncountable temptations, mistakes, all which causes us to delude and deceive ourselves causing us to call good evil and evil good.
- Indeed God is gracious in His giving, His grace and is perfectly holy, and we are directly the opposite.

II. HOW WE WOULD DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY THAN GOD DID

1. God allowed evil to come into the world and continue.

- God allowed Lucifer/Satan to sin and cause innumerable other angels to do the same.
- God allowed Satan to lead Adam and Eve into sin, therefore contaminating the whole human race.
- If we had our way, we would have never let sin enter the world but if it did, it and anybody who committed sin would be immediately removed.
- God allowed it, but we would not have.
- God's ways are different from ours.

2. God placed Adam as head and representative of the whole human race, so stand or fall, so would everybody else who followed him.

- Because of Adam's sin, the entire human race has been condemned and the consequences of his sin still follow us even today.
- God said that in Adam, all die.
- If we had our way, every individual would be independent of anybody else, on one's own.
- God did so with the angels, but not with us, the human race.
- God's ways are different from ours.

3. God made a difference between the angels who sinned and people who sinned.

- God gave no salvation to any of the angels who fell.
 - No day of grace, no time of repentance, no offers of mercy, but immediate punishment.
- God gives us time for repentance, favored with offers of salvation, grace offered, sent His own Son to US, not to the fallen angels, but to US, even though they are of a higher rank, but God thought otherwise and did what He thought seemed good in His sight.

4. God provided salvation differently from the way we would have done it.

- Our way of God providing salvation for us would be by letting us suffer for a while the consequences of our disobedience and foolishness.
- However God sent a Redeemer, His own Son to make salvation available for anybody.
- If we had been asked to help, we would have had His Son come in a more glorious manner with a lot of splendor, pomp and glory, overcoming all opposition by a display of great power, to be carried through the streets with armies and great splendor.
 - Not born in a stable to poor people with a few disliked shepherds present.
 - Yes, we would have had the advent, the coming of God's Son done a lot differently.
- We would have done the "blood-cross" thing differently as well.
 - We would have added conditions such as merits, gifts, sacrifices, works, heritage, prestige, lots of things to bring notice to us.
- Yet this was the way God chose, to give His only Son to die on a cross with His shed blood as the sacrifice and whosoever believes in what God's Son did would be given eternal life.
 - Yes, God's ways and thoughts are different from ours.

4. God's thoughts and ways in getting the Church started were different than how we would have done it.

- We would have called down angels, brought powerful armies and most influential people with great persuasive powers to get the Church started.
- God did things differently, however. God used a bunch of ignorant fishermen to get His Church started and of all things, an open persecutor of the Church, a man named Saul.
 - *"...God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and the weak things of the world to confound the mighty; and base things of the world, and things that are despised hath God chosen; yea, and things that are not to bring to naught things which are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. For when in the wisdom of God, the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.*
- Yes, God does indeed do things differently than we do.

5. God's thoughts about who people are saved differ from what we would have done.

- Left up to us, people who are saved are done so by their good works, obeying the law, keeping their sins under control, giving money and praying.
- God's way is different, however. People are saved by believing, by grace through their faith.
 - Simple, sincere faith, believing in the Son of God is God's way.
- Truly God's ways and thoughts about being saved are different from how we'd do it.

6. God's ways of dealing with believers is different than how we'd do it.

- God took Israel the long way from Egypt to their promised land for a purpose.
- When saved, God could change the believer immediately into a sinless, perfect person and call him/her to heaven, but He doesn't.
- As Israel was led around for years before entering their promised land, so the believer is also led through years of his/her life spent in learning, being humbled, proven, shown what is in their hearts, teaching them about God, the Lord Jesus and the meaning of salvation.
- With us, if a believer messed up, out he/she goes. No second chance, no grace, no patience.
- Again, thankfully, God is not like us.

CONCLUSION:

1. Since God's ways and thoughts differ so much from ours, then it is understandable that we should have questions for what we cannot understand we want "proof" that we are in the wrong and proof that God is right.
 - However, to question God's ways and thoughts because they are different from ours is to question the truth.

2. To find fault with God's Word, complain about His manner of doing things, thinking that perhaps God is not so wise, not so kind, not so just and that one could do things in a better way/manner blasts loudly of PRIDE.
 - It is like a child still in its diaper condemning/questioning what his/her parents do.
 - Where were we when the heavens were created?
 - Where were we when the foundations of the world were laid?
 - Where were we when the creatures of the world were placed upon the earth?
 - Who are we to find fault with God's thoughts and ways?

3. If God's ways and thoughts are indeed high above ours, then should we not implicitly believe every word He says and does?
 - Who are we, ignorant, blind, prejudiced people to question the infinitely wise, good and infallible God?

4. Some day Christian, we will be rewarded for our faith and the clouds of question and darkness will be rolled away and we shall see HIM as HE is, face to face and we shall be peaceful and happy. We shall see all things as they really are.
 - ***"...What I do, thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter...."***