

## God's thoughts and ways – 31/07/2016

***“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord.  
<sup>9</sup> “For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
So are My ways higher than your ways  
And My thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9)***

Beloved in the Lord,

We have a saying: “Man plans but God does.” So often in life these words ring true. We plan things, but everything turns out completely different. We make our plans and then something unforeseen happens, and all of our plans fly out the window. There are so many things in life that are totally beyond our control. Our lives can be changed in a moment, often without any warning. We can suddenly fall ill, or have an accident, or a loved one suddenly dies. We can be driving somewhere and the car breaks down, or the train doesn't turn up on time. There are so many factors that can affect our plans. So many things happen that we cannot plan for. The things that happen are not always negative, they can be something good, for example a dear friend drops by unannounced.

Life is full of surprises, both good and bad. They can disrupt our plans and cause the outcome to be very different to what we had envisaged.

God does not have this problem. Nothing surprises Him. Nothing ever happens that God did not know about beforehand. Nothing happens outside of God's sphere of knowledge. There are three words that we often use to describe God's attributes and it is good to keep these etched upon our heart and mind. They are “Omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent, They mean that God is all-knowing; all-powerful; and ever present everywhere.

At those times when things are not going as we envisaged, we need to remind ourselves that God is indeed: Omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent. This helps us to not despair. When we remind ourselves that God knows what is happening and that He is allowing it and that He is with us, then it gives us peace and helps us to maintain a right perspective.

Throughout my life, I have experienced many a time when I have had to say to God “Father, I don't know what is going on, but You do, so I trust in You, and know that all will be well.” This type of trust in God brings peace to a troubled heart. Paul writes that this peace is beyond our human comprehension. This peace is the peace of God, and it comes when we trust in Him. We have this peace when we are tuned into God.

If you want to listen to the radio, then it is vital that the radio is tuned into the appropriate station. You need to have the radio tuned to the right frequency. For example, if you want to listen to the Christian radio station “Hope FM” then your radio needs to be tuned to

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103.2 on the FM band. If you are on either side of this frequency you will not hear music but static.

In order for you to have peace in your heart you need to be tuned into God fully. We tune into God when we understand that His thoughts and His ways are not our thoughts and ways. God is the one who calls the shots and not us. His thoughts and His ways are far higher than ours. God sees what we do not see and He knows what we do not know. He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, and everything in between.

When we are tuned into God's frequency, then we have peace and joy in our heart. Our life is like a melody, that at times is very difficult, yet beautiful. While we are striving to get our own way, we are off tune. There is static. Things are not as they should be.

In order to be in tune with God, we need to daily walk in the Spirit. We need to be walking in step with The Holy Spirit. He leads and we follow. He will always lead and guide us if we trust in Him.

Before we do something, or take a decision, we should ask God to show us His will. Our problem is, that far too often we want God to bless our will and our plans. Is that not true? We come to God with our list of requests and we ask Him to bless our plans. We are all guilty of this to a greater or lesser degree. I can say from experience, thank God that He has often answered my foolish requests by saying "No". As I look back at some of the things I have asked for, I am truly grateful that God denied my request.

It has been a slow process, but I am learning that we need to come to God and ask Him to draw up the plan for us. We need to find out what He wants us to do, and then ask Him to empower us to do it. That is the blessed path in life.

Paul wrote:

***"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,<sup>21</sup> to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen." (Eph.3:20)***

God is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think... Our ability to think or imagine or do is nothing compared to God's. That is why it is far better to rely upon Him, to be in tune with him, trusting in Him.

How often have I heard people say, and have experienced myself, that as we look back on things we say: "I never could have imagined that I could do that." Paul had a right understanding when he wrote to the Philippians:

***"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." (Phil.4:13)***

Paul is not boasting, but rather giving all the glory to God. He is not saying "I can do all things." No he writes: ***"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."*** He is saying that it is Christ Jesus who empowers Him to do all things that he needs to do.

This should be our testimony. If God has called us to do something, then He has also empowered us to do it, whether we realise it or not. That is why we need to trust Him. When we are in tune with God, on His wavelength, then we are able to do all things through Him. The reality is, that it is not us who are doing, but Christ working through us.

Another thing we need to realise is that when we accept that God's thoughts and ways are always right then we are not disappointed and do not become bitter and twisted over events in life. We do not become angry and unsatisfied with life. When we trust in God then we know Paul statement is the absolute truth: ***"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."*** (Romans 8:28)

Do you know that? Do you believe that? All things work together for good to those who love God.

Paul makes it clearer in the next few verses: ***"For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;<sup>30</sup> and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified."*** (Rom.8:29-30)

You see, it is very clear that all is from God. He foreknew; He predestined; He called; He justified and glorified. It is all of Him and from Him.

We read in Acts:

***"for in Him we live and move and exist."*** (Acts 17:28a)

Oh, when this is our confession, then our life is blessed and a blessing to others.

In order to live , move and exist in God we need to follow what Jesus taught in the sermon on the Mount: ***"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."*** (Mt.6:33)

May we seek first God's Kingdom. Let us put Him first in all things. May we acknowledge that His thoughts and His ways are always right, May we understand that He loves us with an everlasting love and then may we live for His glory alone and be blessed.

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All Bible quotations taken from New American Standard Bible.***