

GOD's Ways & Thoughts: ABOVE Ours

- Our Ways
- Our Own Wisdom
- Our Think SO's

There is Immense contrast, between Infinite, and finite.

- [Isa.55:8-9](#) reads, “For **MY** Thoughts are **NOT** your thoughts, **NEITHER** are your ways **MY** Ways, saith the Lord.
⁹ For **AS** the heavens are **HIGHER** than the earth, so are **MY** Ways **HIGHER** than your ways, and **MY** Thoughts, than your thoughts.”

The lesson is entitled, “GOD’s Ways & Thoughts: ABOVE Ours”.

I. Our Ways Are NOT His WHEN Our Thoughts Are NOT His

Which become,

A. Problem **WAYS**, as they are Different THINKING, than God’s.

B. God Appeal’s For Our RETURN, To Receive MERCY.

- “**SEEK** ye the Lord **WHILE** He may be **FOUND**,
CALL ye upon Him **WHILE** He is **NEAR**:
⁷ **LET** the wicked **FORSAKE** his way, and the UNrighteous man (forsake) his thoughts:
and **LET** him **RETURN** unto the Lord, and He will have **MERCY** upon him;
and (let him return) to our God, for He will abundantly **PARDON**.” ([Isa.55:6-7](#))

C. There Are No Human Limitations, with God.

- He said in [Hos.11:9](#), “for **I AM God**, and **NOT** man; the Holy One in the midst of thee:”

God does not think, or act like mankind.

- “for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: ” ([Ecc.5:2b](#))
- He said, “I have spread out **My** hands **ALL** the day, unto a **REBELLIOUS** people, which walketh in a **WAY** that was **NOT** good, after their own **THOUGHTS**,” ([Isa.65:2](#))

D. It is Such A Fatal Mistake To Ignore God’s Guidance.

The Bible says,

- “Behold, the Lord’s hand is **NOT** shortened, that it cannot save;
NEITHER His ear heavy, that it cannot hear:
² but **YOUR** iniquities have **SEPARATED** between **YOU** and **YOUR God**,
and **YOUR** sins have **HID** His face **FROM** you, that He will **NOT HEAR**.” ([Isa.59:1-2](#))

E. Thus Our Need To Know His Thoughts.

...and the **REASON**, we should,

- “Let the **WORD** of Christ **DWELL** in you richly in **ALL** wisdom,” ([Col.3:16](#))

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But,

II. Humanity Is Inclined To See Their Own Wisdom, As Greater

A. There has always been some, who array their puny wisdom, against His.

Eve used Rationalism (or her own wisdom), **NOT** Revelation.

- The Bible says concerning, "the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, **GOD** hath **SAID**, Ye shall **NOT** Eat of it, **NEITHER** shall ye Touch it, lest ye **DIE**.

⁴ And the **SERPENT** said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

⁵ for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof,

then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

⁶ And when the **Woman SAW** that the tree was **GOOD** for food (which is, the lust of the flesh), and that it was **PLEASANT** to the eyes (which is, the lust of the eyes), and a tree to be desired to make one **WISE** (which is, the pride of life – 1Jn.2:16), she **TOOK** of the fruit thereof, and did **EAT**, and **GAVE** also unto her husband with her; and he did **EAT**." ([Gen.3:3-6](#))

When God gave Naaman specific instruction to cleanse his leprosy, through the prophet Elisha, **Naaman** used "Pride, and his Own Wisdom".

The Bible said that Elisha, sent a messenger to Naaman,

- And he, "was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, **I THOUGHT**, He will surely **COME** out to me, and **STAND**, and **CALL** on the Name of the Lord his God, and **STRIKE** his hand over the place, and **RECOVER** the leper.

¹² Are not Abana and Phar-par, rivers of Damascus, **BETTER** than all the waters of Israel? **MAY I not WASH** in them, and be **CLEAN**?

So he turned and went away in a rage." ([2Kngs.5:11-12](#); [14](#))

The **Jews**, were "religious", but **NOT** Saved.

- Paul said, "Brethren, my **HEART's desire** and **PRAYER** to God for Israel is, that they **MIGHT** be saved.
² For I **BEAR** them record that they **HAVE** a zeal of God, but **NOT** according to KNOWLEDGE.
³ For they being **IGNORANT** of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their OWN righteousness, have NOT submitted themselves unto the **RIGHTEOUSNESS** of God." ([Rom.10:1-3](#))

What about the "**Workers**" of Matt.7:21-23?

There activity **MUST** be lawful.

- Jesus said, "**NOT** every one that **SAITH** unto me, Lord, Lord, shall **ENTER** into the kingdom of heaven; **BUT** he that **DOETH** the Will of **My Father** which is **IN** heaven.

²² Many will **SAY** to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied IN Thy Name? and **IN Thy Name** have cast out devils? and **IN Thy Name** done many wonderful works?

²³ And then will I **PROFESS** unto them, I **NEVER** knew you:

DEPART from Me, ye that **WORK** iniquity (or **workers** of sin)." ([Matt.7:21-23](#))

For some, Instead of Adhering to God's ways and thoughts,

B. SINCERITY is made the standard.

But sincerity does not change error TO truth.

- We can believe a gun is empty, but that doesn't necessarily mean, it truly is empty.
- We may have right to use medicine, but that doesn't mean it will heal 100%.
- We can believe that 2+2=5, but that doesn't make it so.

In salvation, our choices will have dire consequences,
IF we use "I THINK" as our standard, rather than BIBLE teaching.

As with the standard of weights/measures/time, etc.,
So, with Truth; we need to use Biblical facts, and not "I THINK SO".

- If we, "...**KNOW** the Truth, ...the **TRUTH** shall make you **FREE**" ([Jn.8:32](#))
Free from the bondage of sin, and the consequences of our own "THINK" so.

Jesus prayed unto God the Father,

- "Sanctify them through Thy **TRUTH**: thy **WORD** is Truth." ([Jn.17:17](#))
- "**IF** any man **SPEAK**, let him speak **AS** the **ORACLES** of God; (or His Truth)" ([1Pet.4:11](#))

We shouldn't accept ,

- "every wind of doctrine" ([Eph.4:14](#))

But rather,

- "**PROVE** all things; hold fast that which is good."([1Thess.5:21](#))
- "**EXAMINE** yourselves, whether ye be **IN** the **Faith**;
PROVE your own selves." ([2Cor.13:5a](#))

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III. There is Much Emphasis On What We THINK But NOT On What God Says

Consider a few of the many instances, on Man's Thoughts...

According to some,

A. God (as man) does not mean what He says.

But the Bible says,

- "The Lord is **NOT** slack concerning His **PROMISE**,
AS some MEN count slackness;
but is **LONGSUFFERING** to us-ward, **NOT** willing that **ANY** should **PERISH**,
but that **ALL** should **COME** to **REPENTANCE**." ([2Pet.3:9](#))
- "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but **My WORDS** shall **NOT** pass away." (Jesus said in, [Matt.24:35](#))

According to some,

B. Sin is not so terrible.

This sounds similar to the first lie told by the serpent,

- “ye shall not surely die” ([Gen.3:4](#))

The bible said,

- “**YOUR iniquities** have **SEPARATED** between you and your God, and **YOUR sins** have **HID** His face **FROM** you, that **He will NOT HEAR.**” ([Isa.59:2](#))
- “the wages of **SIN** is **DEATH;**” ([Rom.6:23](#))
- “The **SOUL** that **SINNETH**, it shall **DIE**.
The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father,
neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son:
the righteousness of the righteous, shall be upon him,
and the wickedness of the wicked, shall be upon him.” ([Ezek.18:20](#))
- “God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet **SINNERS**, Christ **DIED** for us.” ([Rom.5:8](#))
- “Through Thy precepts I get understanding:
therefore I **HATE** every **FALSE WAY.**” ([Psa.119:104](#))

According to some,

C. God Can Be Deceived, as people are.

But the Bible says,

- “Neither is there any creature, that is **NOT** manifest (or hidden) in His **SIGHT**:
but **ALL things** are **NAKED** and **OPENED** unto the **EYES** of Him, with Whom we have to do.” ([Heb.4:13](#))
- Ananias and his wife Sapphira were not able to conceal their deception (read [Acts 5:1-11](#))
- “The **EYES** of the Lord are in **EVERY place**, **BEHOLDING** the evil and the good.” ([Prov.15:3](#))

According to some,

D. We can express Love to God, in any way we please.

But the Bible says,

- “...The **JUST** shall live **BY FAITH.**” ([Rom.1:17b](#)), ...**NOT** in any way we please.
- Sadly, “they have **NOT** all **OBEYED** the gospel.” ([Rom.10:16a](#))
- Jesus said, “ye shall **DIE** in your sins: for **IF** ye believe **NOT** that **I AM**, ye shall **DIE** in your sins.” ([Jn.8:24](#))
- God, “now **COMMANDETH** all men every where to **REPENT.**” ([Acts 17:30b](#))
- “He that **BELIEVETH** and is **BAPTIZED** shall be **SAVED**;
but he that believeth **NOT** shall be **DAMNED.**” ([Mk.16:16](#))

- In the first century, it was, “upon the **FIRST DAY** of the week, **WHEN** the disciples **CAME TOGETHER** to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.” ([Acts 20:7](#))
- In the first century, they did so, “**NOT forsaking** the **ASSEMBLING** of ourselves **TOGETHER**, as the manner of some is; **BUT** exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” ([Heb.10:25](#))
- “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye **STEDFAST, UNmoveable**, always **ABOUNDING** in the **Work OF the Lord**, forasmuch as ye know that your **LABOUR** is **NOT** in vain **IN the Lord.**” ([1Cor.15:58](#))
- Jesus said, “**WHY** call ye me, Lord, Lord, and **DO NOT** the things which I **SAY?**” ([Lk.6:46](#))
- “Ye **DID** run well; who did **HINDER** you that ye should **NOT OBEY** the **Truth?**” ([Gal.5:7](#))
- “And hereby we do **KNOW** that we know Him, **IF** we **KEEP** His commandments.
⁴ He that saith, I **KNOW** Him, and keepeth **NOT** His commandments, is a **LIAR**, and the **Truth** is **NOT** in him.” ([1Jn.2:3-4](#))

and so, we canNOT express love to God, in any way we please.

According to some,

E. One way, is just as good, as another.

But the Bible says,

- “**EXCEPT** the **Lord BUILD** the house, they labour **IN VAIN** that build it: **EXCEPT** the **Lord KEEP** the city, the watchman waketh but **IN VAIN.**” ([Psa.127:1](#))

Jesus said,

- “**EVERY** plant, which My heavenly Father hath **NOT** planted, shall be **ROOTED UP.**” ([Matt.15:13](#))
- “Are ye also, yet without understanding?” ([Matt.15:16](#))
- “those things which proceed out of the **MOUTH**, come forth from the **HEART**; and they **DEFILE** the man.” ([Matt.15:18](#))

God hath put all things under the feet of Christ,

- “and gave Him to be the **HEAD** over all things to the church,
²³ which is His body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all.” ([Eph.1:22-23](#))

After Peter preached to the Jews who crucified Christ, they asked, “**What Shall We do?**” ([Acts 2:37](#))

And in [Acts 2:38](#), Peter told them to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins,

- And those that did, “the **Lord ADDED** to the church daily, such as should be saved.” ([Acts 2:47](#)),

You can be sure, one way is **NOT** as good, as another.

- “Therefore we ought to **GIVE** the more earnest **HEED** to the things which we have **HEARD**, **LEST** at any **TIME** we should **LET** them **SLIP**.

² For **IF** the **WORD** spoken by angels was **STEDFAST**, and **EVERY** transgression and disobedience **RECEIVED** a just recompence of **REWARD**;

³ **HOW** shall we **ESCAPE**, if we **NEGLECT** so great **SALVATION**; ” ([Heb.2:1-3](#))

According to some,

F. God allows latitude in belief and practice.

But the Bible says,

- “There **IS** a way which **SEEMETH** right unto a man, but the **END** thereof are the ways of **DEATH.**” ([Prov.14:12](#))
- “O Lord, I know that the **WAY** of man is **NOT** in himself: it is **NOT** in man that walketh, to **DIRECT** his (own) steps.” ([Jer.10:23](#))

Instead of directing our own way, we need to **ASK**,

- “For what saith the scripture?” ([Rom.4:3](#)) and then DO it.

Because...

- “**ALL** scripture is **GIVEN** by **INSPIRATION** of God (which literally means, God-Breathed), and is **PROFITABLE** **FOR** doctrine, **FOR** reproof, **FOR** correction, **FOR** instruction in **RIGHTEOUSNESS**:¹⁷ that the man of God may be **PERFECT** (or complete), **THOROUGHLY** furnished unto **ALL** good **WORKS.**” ([2Tim.3:16-17](#))

According to some,

G. Baptism is not essential to salvation.

But the Bible says now and forever more, that...

- “**BAPTISM** doth also now **SAVE** us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) **BY** the **RESURRECTION** of Jesus Christ:” ([1Pet.3:21](#))

According to some,

H. Sprinkling serves as baptism.

but that can't be so...

- “Know ye not, that so many of us **AS** were **BAPTIZED** into **Jesus Christ**, were baptized **INTO** His **DEATH**?⁴ Therefore we are **BURIED** with **Him**, **BY** **BAPTISM** into **DEATH**: that like **AS** **Christ** was **RAISED UP** from the dead, **BY** the **GLORY** of the Father, even so **we ALSO** should walk in **NEWNESS** of **LIFE.**” ([Rom.6:3-4](#))

According to some,

I. Any Immersion is Okay.

Peter said in [Acts 2:38](#),

- “**REPENT**, and be **BAPTIZED** every one of you **IN the NAME of Jesus Christ** (or by His Power and Authority) **FOR the REMISSION of sins**, (just like the blood of Christ provides Remission of sins- Matt.26:28) and ye shall **RECEIVE** the **GIFT** of the Holy Spirit.” (that’s [Acts 2:38](#))

NOT the Holy Spirit Himself, but that which the Holy Spirit **GIVES**,

- the “**free GIFT**”, ...“**the GIFT By Grace**” ([Rom.5:15](#)), ...the “**GIFT of God**” ([Eph.2:8](#))

...**THROUGH** the Holy Spirit **REVEALED** Word of God.

- “Wherefore **LAY APART** all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and **RECEIVE** with meekness, the engrafted WORD, which is able to **SAVE** your **SOULS**.” ([James 1:21](#))

Any immersion is **NOT** okay, because...

- “while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, ² he said unto them, Have ye **RECEIVED** the Holy Spirit since ye **BELIEVED**?

He’s asking if they have received what the Holy Spirit **GIVES**.

In other Words, have they **OBEYED** the Teachings of Christ,

so they could then receive “All spiritual blessings (or Gifts) in heavenly places **IN Christ**” ([Eph.1:3](#)).

And they said unto him, We have not so much as **HEARD** whether there be any Holy Spirit.

³ And he said unto them, Unto (or INTO) **WHAT** then, were ye **BAPTIZED**?

And they said, Unto (or INTO) John’s baptism.

⁴ Then said Paul, **John** verily baptized with the **BAPTISM of REPENTANCE**, saying unto the people, that they should believe ON Him, which should come after him, that is, **ON Christ Jesus**.

⁵ When they **HEARD** this, they were **Baptized IN the NAME of the Lord Jesus**.” ([Acts 19:1-5](#))

Here we have believers being re-baptized, because they had **NOT** been taught correctly since the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. They had been ignorant that the New Testament era had arrived.

- “For as many of you as have been **BAPTIZED INTO Christ**, have **PUT ON Christ**.” ([Gal.3:27](#))
- “For **BY one Spirit** are we all **Baptized INTO one BODY** (or ONE church – Col.1:18, Eph.1:22-23), whether **we be** Jews or Gentiles, whether **we be** bond or free; and have been **ALL made** to drink **INTO one Spirit**.” ([1Cor.12:13](#))
...that is, One Spirit with singular Teaching , from the Holy Spirit **REVEALED** Word of God.

You see, one can’t be taught WRONG, and Baptized RIGHT.

One has to be Scripturally Taught **RIGHT**, to be Baptized **RIGHT**, or Correctly.

Paul said,

- “I beseech you, brethren, **BY the NAME of our Lord Jesus Christ**, that ye All **SPEAK the SAME thing**, and that there be **NO divisions** among you; but that ye be perfectly **JOINED together** in the **SAME mind** and in the **SAME judgment**.

¹¹ For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are **CONTENTIONS** among you. ¹² Now this I say, that every one of you **SAITH**,

I am **OF Paul**; and I **OF Apollos**; and I **OF Cephas**; and I **OF Christ**. ¹³ **IS Christ DIVIDED?** **WAS Paul CRUCIFIED** for you? or **WERE ye BAPTIZED** in the name of Paul?” ([1Cor.1:10-13](#))

Clearly, just any immersion is **NOT** okay.

According to some,

J. Values, gather round temporal and material things.

...Such as success, wealth, rank, fame, fortunes, and titles.

But this is **NOT** what God **LOOKS** for.

- “For **ALL** those things hath **Mine hand MADE**, and **ALL** those things have **BEEN**, saith the Lord: but to this man will I **LOOK**, even to him that is poor (in spirit) and of a contrite SPIRIT, and **TREMBLETH at My Word.**” ([Isa.66:2](#))

IV. IN-CONCLUSION

Whose scale of values are right? Ours, or God's?

Do our ways and thoughts, harmonize with His?

If we haven't done so already, All should submit, today!

- “arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” ([Acts 22:16a](#))
- “If we **CONFESS** our sins, He is Faithful and Just to **FORGIVE** us our sins, and to **CLEANSE** us from all UNrighteousness.” ([1Jn.1:9](#))
- “**SEEK** ye the Lord **WHILE** He may be **FOUND**, **CALL** ye upon Him **WHILE** He is **NEAR**:
⁷ **LET** the wicked **FORSAKE** his way, and the UNrighteous man (forsake) his thoughts: and **LET** him **RETURN** unto the Lord, and He will have **MERCY** upon him; and (let him return) to our God, for He will abundantly **PARDON.**” ([Isa.55:6-7](#))

If you have a spiritual NEED,

Please COME while TOGETHER, we stand and sing.

Source: Sermon Outline by Derrel Shaw
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