

His Ways and His Thoughts

Is. 55:8-11 For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts...

What God does is beyond what we can do. What He plans is beyond what we can plan. Let's be at peace with this. All the effort we can expend will not enable us to bridge this gap. Too often we spend our energy in the wrong way.

So what do we do? How do we discover His ways and His thoughts? How do we get to know God's will (His thoughts) and his plan to accomplish His will (His Ways)?

He reveals it in scripture. He shows us the process He has put in place for us to know His ways and His thoughts.

I Cor. 2:9-12 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

God reveals what He has prepared for us by His Spirit. We receive the things of God by the Spirit of God. Since He lives in us, the answers we need are in us. We access them by praying in the Spirit.

In this passage in Isaiah 55, The Lord elaborates on how he reveals His ways and His thoughts. He uses an illustration of rain and snow. It doesn't return to heaven without watering the earth and producing there. His word is the rain and snow. We are the earth. His word is sent to us by His Spirit into our hearts. When he sends it, this is what we are to do:

1. Hear it.

Not everyone has ears to hear. We have to value His words. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Rom. 10:17). We have to continually keep the word before us so faith can grow.

This means not only the Logos (written) word, but the Rhema (spoken) word. God has a specific word for us that He wants to accomplish. We are to keep that word before us as well.

2. Mediate on it.

We should develop a regular habit of meditating in God's word. This includes doing what it says. We are to be doers of the word.

I Tim. 4:15

Mediate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them, that thy profiting may appear to all. (KJV)

Be diligent in these matters. Give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. (NIV)

Give your complete attention to these matters. Throw yourself into your tasks, so that everyone may see your progress. (NLT)

Practice these things. Immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. (ESV)

3. Believe it.

This is the place that people get stuck. This may be the most important part of the process. If we don't believe it, it will be hard to stand on it when what we see contradicts it, when it seems to take a long time coming to pass.

What we have to remember is that God produces it, not us. He brings His word to pass. It will accomplish what HE pleases. It will prosper in the thing for which HE sends it. We think we have to be the one to bring it to pass. That's our mistake. We unwittingly intrude on God's role. This will only lead to discouragement. But when we do our part and believe God to do His, it will accomplish what God intends.

As we hear the word, meditate on it, do it, and believe it, giving ourselves completely to it, it will manifest. It will be like the rain and snow that waters the earth and makes it bring forth and bud, to provide seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry.