

Agape House of Worship
Interactive Mid-Week Service & Bible Study

Topic: Going Deeper into God's Ways Part 1

September 23, 2020

Scriptures: Isaiah 55:8-9

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Isaiah 55:8-9

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, **neither are your ways my ways,**” declares the LORD. ⁹“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are **my ways higher than your ways** and my thoughts than your thoughts.

God's ways (derachay, directions) are **different** and **higher** than ours

Definition of ways – manner, mode or fashion, characteristic or habitual manner, method, plan, or means for attaining a goal

A person's ways relates to how they do things, not just what they do but the manner in which they do things.

How far are the heavens from the earth?

Google Search -, God is super-natural thus beyond the confines of nature, i.e., space and time. As of May 2011, an explosion of a gamma-ray burst was labeled the probable farthest thing seen in the universe; it is estimated to be **13.14 billion miles** away.

Why are God's ways higher than ours?

And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the **Lord God Omnipotent reigns!** (Rev. 19:6 NKJV)

The Lord God is omnipotent, He has unlimited power and potential, He is able to do anything and everything. In contrast as human beings we are limited. Ex. Isaiah 46:10 NIV & NLT

What does the Bible say about God's Ways

Deuteronomy 32:4 He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and **all his ways are just.** A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.

- God's ways are **perfect, right, fair, just.**
- We can always be right when we follow His ways

Exodus 33:13 If you are pleased with me, teach me your **ways** so **I may know you** and continue to **find favor** with you. Remember that this nation is your people.” ¹⁴The LORD replied, “**My Presence will go with you,** and I will give you rest.”

- We have to **learn** His ways through His word & Holy Spirit (teacher)
- We get to **know Him** by knowing His ways. Phil. 3:10 I want to know Christ
- Helps us find favor with God, verse 14 - The LORD replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

2 Samuel 22:22 For I have **kept the ways** of the LORD; I am not guilty of turning from my God.

- We have to **keep** His ways
- Demonstrates **how we turn to God,** how we walk in Him

Examples of God's Ways (practical models)

1. Man looks outward but God looks inside (1 Samuel 16:7)

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look **at** the things people look **at**. People look **at** the outward appearance, **but the Lord looks at the heart.**"

Ex. David (1 Samuel 13:14b)

2. Bless those causing you harm (Romans 12:14 AMP)

¹⁴ **Bless those who persecute you** [who cause you harm or hardship]; bless and do not curse [them].

Ex. Saul (Apostle Paul) (Acts 9:4)

3. Capacity for Forgiveness (Matthew 18:22)

²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, you must forgive him more than 7 times. **You must forgive him even if he does wrong to you 70 times 7.**

Ex. Woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-12)

How do we operate in God's ways? To operate in God's ways we must be connected to Christ, His word and the Holy Spirit.

1. Connected to Christ

- **Proverbs 3:5-6** - Trust in the LORD with **all your heart**, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your **ways** acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.
- **John 15:5** - "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who **abides in Me**, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.
- **Acts 17:28** - 'For **in him** we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

2. Since His ways are connected to His word, we must know His word for ourselves

- **2 Timothy 2:15 TLB Living Bible** - Work hard so God can say to you, "Well done." Be a good workman, one who does not need to be ashamed when God examines your work. **Know what his Word says and means.**
- 3. **We must access the mind of Christ through the Holy Spirit.**
 - **1 Corinthians 2:16 ERV** - As the Scriptures say, "Who can know what is on the Lord's mind? Who is able to give him advice?" But we have been given Christ's **way of thinking.**
 - **1 Corinthians 2:16 EXB** - "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Who has been able to ·teach [advise; counsel] him?" But we have the mind of Christ [**the Holy Spirit reveals God and his ways to us**].

Our Ways Matter - Our ways effect the reception of what we are trying to do or accomplish (attainment of goal)

Galatians 5:22-23 NKJV- But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,** ²³ **gentleness, self-control.** Against such there is no law.

When our ways are grounded in the fruits of the Spirit we know that our ways align with Jesus ways. So the slogan from a few years ago that said "What would Jesus do?" is a true statement, a good question to ask before taking on a task or challenge but I would add "How would Jesus do it". **Example** - Matthew 14:14 NIV - When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had **compassion** on them and healed their sick.