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# God's Thoughts Greater Than Man

Isaiah 55:8–9 (NIV)

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Barry G. Johnson, Sr.

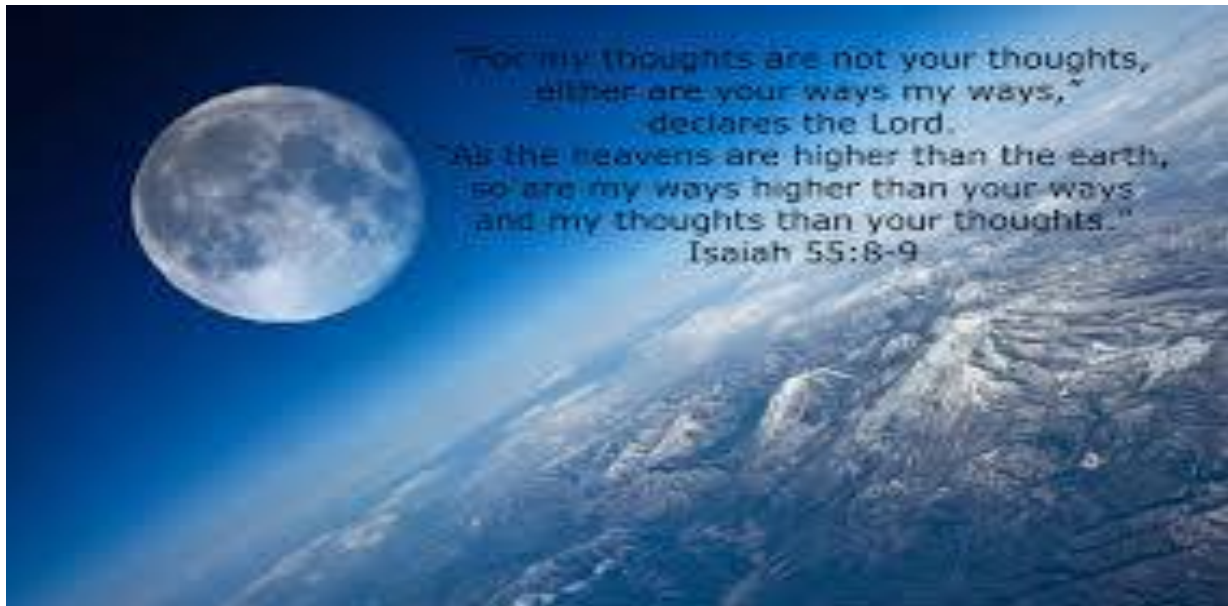
Church of Christ, Brookfield  
Sermon Outline  
July 26, 2015

## Sermon Thesis:

God's ways are not to our understanding or to our liking.

## Sermon Objectives:

- I. We do not think like God
- II. We do not act like God
- III. We should yield to God's Will and Way



## Introduction:

What were you thinking we often find ourselves asking our children? They at some time in their lives will do something that is very foolish and perhaps even dangerous. They are ignorant of the wisdom that comes from experience. I wonder if God looks at us in the same way? We are absent the wisdom of God. His wisdom is far beyond what we would consider as wise. As a matter of fact what God has done throughout the history of mankind we have at one time reckoned it as downright foolish.

We have confirmed that His thoughts and ways are not His. Time has come for us to hear the message of salvation and obey it. When we do obey that sacred Gospel of Salvation we will move from death to life.

# God's Thoughts Greater Than Man

Isaiah 55:8–9 (NIV)

8 “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.

## Sermon Outline:

### I. We do not think like God

A. God's wisdom is foolishness to man.

#### 1 Corinthians 1:18 (NIV)

<sup>18</sup>For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

B. God is great in littleness, strong in weakness, glorious in lowliness, wise in foolishness<sup>1</sup>.

C. Our thinking is unrighteous and we must turn from that way of thinking.

#### Isaiah 55:7 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup>Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

D. Our plans come from our heart and our heart is deceitful above all things.

#### Proverbs 16:1 (NIV)

To humans belong the plans of the heart, but from the LORD comes the proper answer of the tongue.

#### Jeremiah 17:9 (NIV)

<sup>9</sup>The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

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<sup>1</sup> Lange, J. P., Schaff, P., Nägelsbach, C. W. E., Lowrie, S. T., & Moore, D. (2008). *A commentary on the Holy Scriptures: Isaiah* (p. 601). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

E. We oppose God in our ignorance.

**Micah 4:12 (NIV)**

<sup>12</sup> But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD; they do not understand his plan, that he has gathered them like sheaves to the threshing floor.

F. Jesus is clearly God's plan for our salvation and we crucified Him, attempted to cancel God's plan.

**Acts 2:22 (NIV)**

<sup>22</sup> "Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.

*G. So our thoughts are not God's thoughts and our ways are not His either.*

## II. We do not act like God

A. The direction men would travel causes us to be lost.

**Isaiah 53:6 (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

B. God is offended and moves toward grace and mercy. Men are offended and move to revenge and retribution. We do not act like God.

C. If you had treated my son the way men have treated Jesus, I would not be offering forgiveness and mercy. I would be pursuing justice.

**Isaiah 53:5 (NIV)**

<sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

D. Praise God for acting the way He did. His Gospel is good news.

E. The Gospel portrays the foolishness of what we think should be justice but it brings Grace and Mercy for those who believe.

F. Let your acts perish on the cross.

1. Turn in a different direction.

2. Turn to a way that God has shown us through His Word and by His Son.

*G. Our actions betray us. This world sets us up for eternal failure.*

### III. We should yield to God's Will and Way

- A. We have to live this Gospel and reveal this Gospel to men. Remember they are just like we were and don't want to hear the foolishness.

#### **2 Corinthians 4:3–4 (NIV)**

<sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

- B. That is why this Gospel and way of life is difficult for men to attain.

#### **2 Corinthians 2:15–16 (NIV)**

<sup>15</sup> For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. <sup>16</sup> To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task?

- C. We are not accepted because Christ is not accepted. His ways are not our ways.
- D. The things we do and things we approve today are God's ways, so we must repent. We must yield to His ways because they bring life.

#### **Deuteronomy 30:15 (NIV)**

<sup>15</sup> See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction.

#### **Proverbs 10:16 (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup> The wages of the righteous is life, but the earnings of the wicked are sin and death.

- E. Our thinking and our ways bring death; they are opposed to God and His ways.

#### **Proverbs 14:12 (NIV)**

<sup>12</sup> There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.

#### **Proverbs 14:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

F. Turn from death and live.

**Romans 5:10 (NIV)**

<sup>10</sup> For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

**Romans 5:17 (NIV)**

<sup>17</sup> For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

G. Our ways and our thoughts are far short from the righteousness of God.

1. Therefore we must take on new ways that are not our own.
2. We must begin thinking in ways that are not the ways of men or are the ways of this world.

## Conclusion:

- We do not think like God but we have His Word. He revealed to us how we ought to live and what we should do in order to be pleasing to Him.
- We do not act like God but we have the life of His Son to imitate. It is our lofty goal to act and live as He has demonstrated for us. To some it is the very stench of death. Yet to others the aroma of life.
- We should yield to God's Will and Way. Do not be deceived; the majority does not have the righteous way. The blind will lead the blind right into the ditch. Broad is the way that leads to destruction.

### **Matthew 7:13 (NIV)**

<sup>13</sup>“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

## Invitation:

Romans 10:17 (NIV)

<sup>17</sup>Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

<sup>6</sup>And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Luke 13:3 (NIV)

<sup>3</sup> **I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.**

Romans 10:9–10 (NIV)

<sup>9</sup>If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Acts 2:38 (NIV)

<sup>38</sup>Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 6:4 (NIV)

<sup>4</sup>We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Revelation 2:10 (NIV)

<sup>10</sup> **Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.**