



For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares 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.

From Isaiah 55 ESV ...

- Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

God's Thought/God's Way: Buying without money means free. God's way—because he knows that it is the only way possible—is to offer salvation to us as a free gift. As we are spiritually bankrupt, there is nothing we can do to be saved.

- 3 Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

God's Thought/God's Way: Hear God, come to him and live. None of our ways will bring us to eternal life. There is no other viable way or plan. Jesus Christ is the only way.

- 6 Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;

God's Thought/God's Way: Human thinking says wait, but God says now is the time. Seek God while he may still be found. Call out to him while he is near. The human way is to quibble with the words of God and go on our own schedule and sense of time while ignoring the fact that we cannot even see tomorrow and God sees eternity.

- 7 let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

God's Thought/God's Way: The human must see his wickedness and repent and confess. He has to begin to think differently—to think as God thinks. We must allow God to renew our minds, so that we can agree with God and think and act as he does. This is the transforming part—God does it. Our feeble attempts based on human ways and thoughts to “be a better person” are

meaningless. Wicked people may improve themselves but they will still fall short of God's thought of holiness and righteousness as far as the heavens are above the earth. So no matter how much the wicked person improves, he or she will never, ever be ready for the glory of God.

- (Romans 12:2 ESV) Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

We only know God's will when our minds are renewed and when we live in obedience to God. And our only hope is that the LORD will be compassionate and forgive us.

- 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares 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.

God's Thought/God's Way: At some point the human must understand and accept that God thinks and acts differently than we do. This is maybe not a news flash, but what is a news flash to those who attempt to craft their own righteousness is that they are not even remotely close ... not the same time zone ... not the same universe ... so far is the distance that God says “as the heavens are higher than the earth.”

The Relevance of Isaiah 55 to our Galatians and 1 Corinthians study:

God is telling us that we are out of our league. Way out of our league. We do not know the ways and thoughts of God unless he lets us know. And to hear him we must bend our lives in the direction of God and not vice-versa. We bow to God, not the other way around.

God offers to mentor us, not with merely this world in mind, but the world to come. God

who is infinite, eternal, all-knowing and all-powerful is willing to teach us “the mind of Christ”—the mind of Jesus Son of God. And most refuse the help.

Many side with Adam and Eve and the devil in believing that they should have a say in what is good and evil, and in the operation of their world. And they do have a say. God gives us that freedom. But every person will give an account of his or her life.

Could there be anything more foolish than refusing the instruction that God offers?

- 10 “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

God's Thought/God's Way: God gives us his word. We should be wowed every day with just that simple thought. How powerful. God gives us his word. We do not have to be lost or alone in the universe.

The LORD God the Almighty offers to make us part of his family. He shares truth from his perspective—that being that he is God, Sovereign LORD of all. Good perspective. In fact, best seat in the house.

And he does this now—the heavy-lifting part was Christ crucified—with his words. That is what the gospel is—words to believe that we might be saved. Words that inform us of our lives, our world and our God. God's words.

And his word shall accomplish his purpose. His word will succeed and fulfill its mission on the earth. Just like rain and snow water the soil. God's word will never return to him empty but will complete its course.