

Chapter 14. GOD'S THOUGHTS AND OUR THOUGHTS.

"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My thoughts than your thoughts." – Isaiah 55:9

The words of a wise man on earth often mean something different from what a hearer understands. How natural it is then that the words of God, as He understands them, mean something infinitely higher than we understand it to be.

There is a great need for remembering this. Doing so will lead us to continually to not rest content with our knowledge and thoughts of the Word, but to wonder and wait for a revelation as to what its full blessing, as God has meant it, may be. It will give our prayer for the Holy Spirit's teaching new meaning and urgency, especially to show us that which has not yet entered our hearts to conceive. It will give confidence to the hope that, there is for us even in this life, a fulfilment beyond our highest imagination.

God's Word has two meanings. The one is that which it has in the mind of God, making the human words it was written in, the bearer of all the glory of Divine wisdom, and power, and love. The other is our feeble, partial, defective apprehension of it. Even after grace and experience have made words such as the love of God, the grace of God, the power of God, or any of the many promises connected with these truths, very true and real to us, there is still an infinite fulness in the Word we have not yet known.

How strikingly Isaiah wrote it: *"As the heavens are higher than the earth."* We know that no person on earth would dream of trying to reach the sun or the stars with his little arm. It will not even help of if you climbed the highest mountain. This we believe with our whole heart. Now God says, just like this, *"My thoughts are higher than your thoughts."* Even when the Word has spoken God's thoughts, and our thoughts have sought to take them in, they remain as high above our thoughts as the heavens are higher than the earth. All the infinities of God and the eternal world dwell in the Word as the **seed of eternal life**. And as the full-grown oak is so mysteriously larger than the acorn from which it originated, so God's words are but seed from which God's mighty wonders of grace and power can grow.

Faith in this Word should teach us two lessons, the one of ignorance, the other of expectation. We should learn to come to the Word as little children. Jesus said: "*I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.*" (**Matt.11:25**). The prudent and the wise are not necessarily hypocrites, pharisees or enemies. There are many of God's own dear children, who, by neglecting to continually cultivate a childlike spirit and, unconsciously resting on the scriptural basis of their creed, or the honesty of their Bible study, have spiritual truth hidden from them, and never grow up to become spiritual men. "*For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.*" (**1 Cor.2:11**). Let a deep sense of our ignorance, a deep distrust of our own power of understanding the things of God, mark our Bible study.

The deeper our despair of entering correctly into the thoughts of God, the greater the confidence of expectancy may become. God wants to make His Word true in us. "*All your children shall be taught by the LORD.*" (**Isa.54:13**). The Holy Spirit is already in us to reveal the things of God. In answer to our humble believing prayer God will, through the Spirit, give an ever-growing insight into the mystery of God – our wonderful union and likeness to Christ, His living in us, and our being as He was in this world.

Yes, more – if our hearts thirst and wait for it, a time may come when, by a special communication of His Spirit, all our yearnings are satisfied, and Christ so takes possession of the heart, that, what was for a long time only faith, becomes an experience; that as the heavens are higher than the earth, His thoughts are higher than our thoughts.

Prayer: Father God, I surrender my thoughts about your Word, and even about Who You are, to your Spirit. I confess that my own mind and intellect cannot fathom You, nor grasp the Truth. Please teach me by your Holy Spirit to know the Truth and for Christ to be formed in me. I need and long to have the thoughts and mind of Christ. Amen.