

GOD'S WAYS AND MAN'S WAYS



#S31A 0109 22P

When man was created and placed in the Garden of Eden, his ways and God's ways were the same because man was created in the image of God. This all changed when Adam decided to listen to the serpent and obey him instead of the living God.

That's when Adam lost the image of God and became directly opposite to what he was in the very beginning. Instead of being under the control of God, he became controlled by Satan and because of this everyone born since then has been born with the fallen evil nature of Adam.

God and fallen man each have a way for every detail of life, but they are directly opposite. Man's ways are received through the thoughts and suggestions that Satan or his agents put in his mind. God's ways are found in the Bible, especially in the New Testament for this Gospel Age, and in the Old Testament where it illustrates the teaching of the New.

Isaiah 55:8-9, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith 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."

The results of following God's ways and those of fallen man are directly opposite. Proverbs 14:12, "*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*"

All trouble, sorrow, and distress people experience are found in the plans of fallen man. Deliverance out of trouble, happiness, peace,

prosperity, and protection are the result of getting into God's will and following His plans.

All the ways of fallen man finally result in death and the 'Lake of Fire' forever, but the ways of God bring long life here and Eternal Life with God in Heaven, forever.

God sent His Son to this earth, to die on a Cross and then to be raised to life again, for us, that we all may be delivered from our own ways and brought into His ways that we will be delivered out of all troubles and made victorious and happy and prepared for Eternal Life.

God's plans cover every detail of our life, healing, protection, victory in the home-life, finances, and everything else that would concern us. Fallen man's ways are totally ignorant of these blessings waiting for them and will not take advantage of them and eventually land them in the Lake of Fire forever.

The real Christian life is to be led and guided by God out of all our ways and into all of His ways. God has sent His Holy Spirit for this work, and everything He does is for the purpose of leading us into the ways of God.

The first step is conviction, God will open our eyes to see that our own ways are not His ways. The next step would be repentance, which means that we are willing to confess and forsake our ways and accept God's ways. The third step would be a full surrender of our life to God and to be led and guided by His Spirit into His good, acceptable, and perfect will. Every trial and temptation that we meet with will expose any unscriptural way of our own and give us the priceless privilege of accepting God's ways.

If someone were to say or do something to us that is very trying and touches a tender spot in our life, fallen man's way is to worry, resent it, and make some effort to straighten out the matter.

God's way is found in Philippians 4:6-7, "*Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*"

We are not to worry about anything that may occur, but to place all things in God's hands, without resentment, forgiving everyone their trespass from the heart and trusting God to handle the whole situation.

If it is an attack in our bodies, it will be for us to make our decision final to trust in the living God alone and to believe and act on the bare Word of God, which is God's true way of healing, without sight or feeling, and will always bring a full deliverance physically and also great spiritual strength and blessing with it.

It may be a financial attack. Our income may be cut down or shut off, or maybe someone may rob us or borrow from us, or maybe someone may cheat us in a financial transaction. We are to place it in God's hands without worry or resentment and trust Him alone for the deliverance out of the trouble.

It is just as necessary to get into God's financial plan as anything else. Jesus said in the 16th chapter of Luke that our hope of Eternal Life depended as much on this as anything else. In fact, if we follow God's plans in everything, we will be led to place our whole trust in Him alone, which will enable His entire power to work for us.

God's Spirit is always seeking to lead and guide us out of our own ways and into God's ways. Therefore, every trial or temptation that is met right will prove to be a real blessing spiritually.

If our trials are met in the way of fallen man, by continued worry and self-effort, it will prove a stumbling block and a hindrance, instead of working together for good as God had intended, it will work together for bad, and if not repented of, will end in the 'Lake of Fire.'

In James 1:12 we are told that our hope of receiving the crown of Eternal life will depend on how we meet our trials. The authorized version reads; "*Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*"

The late Pastor said that the real meaning of the original would read something like this in our present-day English; "Happy, very happy, is the man that goes through his trials successfully, (which means

to meet them in God's way) for when he has been tested on all points, and has stood every test, then he will receive the crown of Eternal Life which the Lord will give to all them that love Him."

Therefore, our welfare here depends on how we meet our trials and the progress we are making in getting out of all our ways and getting into all of God's ways. God wants us to be perfectly happy, and to have everything we desire, but it is impossible for Him to do this unless we get out of our own ways and into His ways.

We have many examples in the Bible that illustrate both the results of God's ways and fallen man's ways. Abraham is held up as an example of a Gospel man. He was always willing and pliable, always ready to say "yes" to God's call.

This is a most valuable attitude of heart as it will enable God to lead and guide us into His ways of pleasantness and His paths of peace much more rapidly and bring us to the place of perfect happiness in all things and Eternal Life hereafter.

When God called Abraham to leave his father's house, he did so at once, and any other question that arose in his life he always settled it in God's way. He made continual progress and after many years, he came to the supreme test.

Abraham's love for his son Isaac, was the last thing that stood in the way of Abraham's fulness of blessing and happiness. God's Word tells us that we are to love God with all our heart, soul, and strength, and our fellow-man as ourselves.

Jesus explained this to the scribe in Mark 12:29-31, "*And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.*"

God had to put His hand upon Isaac in order to perfect Abraham's surrender and to give him fulness of blessing in this life and Eternal Life

hereafter. God told Abraham to take his son Isaac, slay him, and burn his body as a sacrifice unto God.

I am sure he would much rather have died himself than to do anything to hurt his son, but Abraham had already learned that it always pays, and always works together for good, to forsake our own ways and accept God's ways.

Therefore, Abraham took his son Isaac to the place designated by God, and after preparing the altar and binding Isaac, he raised his knife with full intention of slaying him. But God called to Abraham, just in time, and told him, "*Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.*"

Then God told Abraham what would result from that act of obedience. Genesis 22:16-18, "*By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.*"

We never read of Abraham having any kind of trouble after that. Everything he desired and would make for happiness in this life, was showered upon him in abundance and the most valuable thing of all, he received Eternal Life. Jesus said that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are already in the Kingdom of Heaven.

It was the same way with Joseph. When he got rid of the last ways of fallen man in seeking to get out of the prison cell by his own efforts, he was taken out of that prison cell and placed on the throne of Egypt next to Pharoah. God's many blessings came along with it, a beautiful family, he was blessed spiritually, physically, financially, socially, and domestically. He also received the added blessing of having his loved ones restored to him and of being a great blessing to them.

There are other examples in God's Word where unfortunate souls would not give up their own

ways and would resort to an emergency plan of their own. One example is the rich young man that came to Jesus in the 10th chapter of Mark and asked what he should do in order to inherit Eternal Life.

Jesus told him to obey God's Word and gave him a few of the commandments. The young man claimed that he had kept these commandments from his youth up, not realizing that he failed to keep the very first two commandments. That would mean to love God more than his money and also to love his neighbor as himself, which would mean that he would be willing to sell his properties and divide up the proceeds with his fellow man.

The young man refused to do this, which revealed that he loved his money more than God and had no love for his fellow-man. The young man went away sorrowful, and if he never repented, he missed Eternal Life that he inquired about.

It is very valuable to learn that all our troubles and difficulties are found in the ways of man, and when we confess and forsake our ways and surrender our lives to God and allow His Spirit to lead us into His plans, then all our troubles will end.

That is what Jesus meant when He said in Matthew 11:28-30, "*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*"

This doesn't just mean spiritual rest, of course it does include that, but it means everything in our life from the greatest to the smallest detail, will be ideal when we yoke ourselves up with Christ and accept God's ways and plans without reservation and reject man's ways and plans.



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