

The Grapevine

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Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth. II Timothy 2:15

God's Way of Love

by Jack Northart

People's perception of God and how He works, is many time vastly different from what He says about Himself, and His ways in working with mankind.

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.

This is not to say that God is stingy with His thoughts and ways for He does explain Himself many places in His Word. When people think that they have God all figured out, they need to compare their conclusions with the Bible.

I John 1:5

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. Yet, many profess that they know God to be a vengeful, wrathful God who is looking for every opportunity to squash you like a bug! This verse is either true about God or it isn't true. God is light. Light is a good thing. Light helps us see where we are going. Light is not bad.

I John 4:16

And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

Here it says that God is love. Love is another good thing. Part of the essence of God is love. He has set the standard of love for us to follow.

I John 4:10

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

The world did not earn God's love, but none the less God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. That is a very high standard of love indeed! How many human fathers would be willing to sacrifice their only begotten son for a bunch of sinners? It doesn't seem worth it for anyone to do that. Yet, God so loved that He did it. It is almost impossible to grasp how big this love of God really is!

Psalm 86:15

But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

Our God is full of compassion, and is extremely gracious. He abounds in mercy and loving kindness and truth. Therefore we can approach Him as His children and ask Him to help us when we need it.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

If we dread the idea of bringing our problems to our heavenly Father, then we need change our thoughts so that we can have confidence that He will answer our prayer and meet our need.

I John 3:21-22

Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

As long as our hearts are making us feel guilty and condemned, we cannot have confidence toward God. We must put our negative emotions toward ourselves aside, and allow God to bless our lives once again. Whatever we ask of Him we will receive of Him.

Philippians 4:19

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Even though our thoughts may not be His thoughts, we can turn to God's Word and see His thoughts and allow them to become our thoughts. When this happens, the answers will flow and we will see Him meet our need according to His riches in glory.

Lamentations 3:22-23

It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; They are new every morning for us for He never tires of being gracious and faithful to help us.

Psalms 103:10-14

He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear [reverence] him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth [shows compassion on] his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

God remembers what we are made of. He knows that we are but mere dust from the ground. He is bound to show His grace, mercy and loving kindness to us. He just asks us to ask Him.

Matthew 6:8b

For your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

Romans 8:31-32

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Again, this is the standard by which God shows His grace, mercy and love to us. If He was willing to sacrifice His Son for us all, is there anything at all that he would stop short of helping us with now? The answer is obviously, NO. That is one of God's thoughts that is very difficult for many to comprehend. He went to the farthest extent that He could go. We must now accept this, and move forward into this great love, mercy and grace.

There is no greater love like the love that God has toward us. He constantly implores us to come to him with the things on our heart and He will help and provide for us. He wants to be our God and our Father. He wants to supply every need. In return, He simply wants us to come to him and wait upon Him.

I Peter 5:6-7

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.