

What Does God Like to Talk About?

His Thoughts:

God Thinks about His children a lot

(Ps 40:5) And Your thoughts toward us cannot be recounted to You in order; if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

His Thoughts are Different than we think

(Isa 55:8-9) ⁸“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says 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.

context: Coming to Him (Blessing), Changing our Thoughts/Ways (Repentance)

His Thoughts are consistently Good and Forward Focused

(Je 29:11) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

context: *early* Babylonian captivity - Prosperity (vs 4-6), Peace (vs 7), Return (vs 10)

Especially at times we tend to focus on Correction

ex: Elijah Intercedes Against Israel (1 Ki 19, Rom 11:2)

Calling: 3 tasks (1 Ki 19:15-17), Encouragement: not alone (1 Ki 19:18)

ex: Peter’s Denial Restoration (Jn 21)

Calling: feed My sheep, Encouragement: you will die for Me

Why no Correction? They had already Humbly Come to Him

Paul Understood God Thinks like this

(Phl 3:12-15) ¹²Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.

God Talks like He Thinks:

(Ep 4:29-30) ²⁹Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

His Communication Standard: Build Up, Impart Grace

Redemptive Correction - one way to cull out other voices

Prophecy: God Speaking through people

Really Desire Prophecy (1 Cor 14:1) - Why?

(1Co 14:3) But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

Purpose: Express God’s Thoughts (Heart) - Build Up, Encourage, Comfort

Then Why did Paul have to Warn us not to Despise Prophecy? (1 Thes 5:20)

Damaging (tear down, discourage, discomfort) without His Thoughts/Heart

Old Testament Model doesn’t always fit New Covenant Paradigm

ex: James and John - the Sons of Thunder (Mk 3:17)

(Lk 9:52-56) ⁵²And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. ⁵³But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. ⁵⁴And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?” ⁵⁵But He turned and rebuked them, and said, “You do not know what manner of spirit you are of.” ⁵⁶“For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them.”

Scripture is for Correction, not Prophecy (2 Tim 3:16)

Secrets of Heart: Negative? Interpret 1 Cor 14:24-25 through 1 Sam 9:19

(1Co 14:24-25) ²⁴But if all prophecy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. ²⁵And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.

(1Sa 9:19) ¹⁹Samuel answered Saul and said, “I am the seer. Go up before me to the high place, for you shall eat with me today; and tomorrow I will let you go and will tell you all that is in your heart.”

Calling: King (1 Sam 10:1), Gifting: Prophecy (1 Sam 10:6 “turned into another man)

David - Prophetic King

could Saul have been if he hadn't feared the people (1 Sam 15:24)

Insignificance Issues? (1 Sam 9:21, 10:22-24)

What Hidden Treasure in Hearts is Buried under Insignificance?

God wants to Tell us Who We Really Are! (Eph 2:10)

He wants to Speak to you about your Significance to Him

Homework: Youth Prayer Retreat Guide