

God's Plan God's Time

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NLT) "My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts."

REFLECTION

I am at work standing at the desk with patients all around. The phone rings. I pick it up. It is the nurse for the doctor my husband saw yesterday. "I just wanted to let you know there is a large mass on your husband's x-ray. The doctor is referring him to an oncologist." And so it began. Paul had Hodgkin's lymphoma. A cancerous mass the size of softball was pressing on his heart and lungs. He would undergo 12 weeks of chemotherapy and then radiation. He had 2 weeks of chemo. Then friends came over to pray for him. He lay on the bed. We gathered around him to lay hands on him and prayed for healing. When we finished he stood up and declared he had been healed. "I felt a burning come in through my head. It went throughout my body centered in my chest for a few minutes then dissipated." The next night he developed a high fever. The following morning it was gone. He was to have treatment that day. So when we saw the doctor prior to treatment Paul told him about the fever. It was decided to hold treatment and do a chest x-ray and blood work to check things out. The chest x-ray revealed NO TUMOR! It was GONE! PRAISE GOD! Paul had been miraculously healed with one prayer session.

Fast forward 9 years. I am in the doctor's office. "The MRI you had yesterday reveals you have multiple sclerosis. It's a progressive disease. There is no treatment." I sought the Lord. I have done years of Bible study regarding healing. I have been prayed over for healing many times. The symptoms continue to progress. I am still waiting for my healing to manifest. We have questioned many times why Paul's healing manifested immediately and mine is taking years.

BIBLICAL EVIDENCE

Jesus life on earth gives us a picture of God the Father. John 14:9 tells us that that if we have seen Jesus we have seen _____

John 10:30 The Father and I are _____.

John 12:44-45 Jesus tells us that when we see Him we see _____.

Heb13:8 tells us Jesus is the same _____, _____ and _____. Because we know that Jesus and The Father are one, we know if Jesus never changes then _____ never changes.

So to get an idea of how God works let's look at how Jesus healed when He was on Earth.

How was the man in Matthew 8:2-3 healed of leprosy?

In Matt 8:28-32 how were the demons cast out? _____

How did the woman with bleeding receive her healing in Mark 5:25-34?

Look at Mark 5:21-33. How did he bring Jarius' daughter back to life?

In Matthew 20:29-34 how were the blind men healed? _____
How did Jesus heal the blind man in Mark 8:22-25?

How did Jesus heal the crippled woman in Luke 13:10-13?

According to Luke 7: 1-10 how was the centurion's servant healed?

Through these examples we see that Jesus healed people in many different ways. Sometimes He spoke. Sometimes He touched. Sometimes He used mud. The point is He healed each person in a different way. Since Jesus shows us The Father we know that God does the same thing in many different ways. You may have seen or heard of God working one way for someone but that does not mean that is how He will do it for you. We need to avoid creating a box that we expect God to work within. God's plan.

Now let's look at the familiar story of Joseph. Read Genesis 37-42.

In Gen 37:1-11 Joseph had 2 dreams. What did Joseph dream

How did his brothers react to his dreams?

In Gen 42:6 we see that dream come true. Let's look at the rest of the story to see what happened to Joseph before the promise was fulfilled. Read Gen 37:19-35. What did they do? _____ Gen 39:1-6 tells us in Egypt Joseph was sold as a slave to _____. The Lord was _____ and he prospered. In Gen 39:6-20 things went bad again. We see Joseph, through no fault of his own, ends up in _____. Genesis 39:20-21 tells us that while in prison the Lord _____. As the story continues in chapters 40 and 41 things finally go well for Joseph and he is placed in charge of all of Egypt. Joseph was 17 when he had the dreams. Gen 41:46 tells us Joseph was _____ years old when he became second in command of Egypt. After he was in charge there were 7 years of abundance followed by 7 years famine. Joseph's brothers came to Egypt in the second year of the famine so 14 years had passed between the dreams and their fulfillment. Joseph went from favored son to slave to prisoner and then to second in all of Egypt during that time. The Bible doesn't tell us but knowing Joseph was human we can imagine he did not plan that such events would happen and so much time would pass before his vision came true.

What did Joseph say about this in Gen 50:20? _____

KEY THOUGHT: Don't put God in a box. God's plan and God's time is best.

APPLICATION

What trial are you in now or have you faced recently?

What outcome are you expecting or hoping for. You may see more than one possible solution. Discuss them. _____

How do you see getting there? _____

What are you praying for in this situation? _____

Have you put God in a box or are you allowing for His plans? _____

Sometimes we put God in a box without meaning to or being aware that we are doing it. God may not have any of your scenarios planned but if we pray only according to our plans we don't allow God to work according to His plan. He and the spirit world are sometimes limited by our prayers. It is better to pray the scriptures and always according to God's will. Remember Is 55:9 As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. If you feel you have been putting God in a box talk to Him. Repent of it. Tell God you will wait patiently and expectantly, open to WHATEVER He has planned.

Find 2-3 Bible verses to remind that it is God's plan. God's time. Is 55:9 and Ps 40:10 would be good verses. Memorize them. Post them around and say them out loud as often as you can.