

THE WAYS OF GOD

He Always Wants To

I. To understand the ways of God it's vitally important that you get rooted in who God is, that you get rooted in His nature because who He is and how He does things go hand in hand

A. Who is God? What's His nature? -The only way to get answers to these questions is through the Word of God-Ps145:8

1. So many try to build their understanding of God and the ways of God off of their reasoning and experience and just ignore The Word – When you do this you open yourself to confusion and get further away from your answer
 - a. In this word God is revealing Himself to us and apart from these Words you know nothing about God/His ways
2. The Lord is gracious (kind, benevolent, disposed to forgive offenses and impart unmerited blessings)
 - a. *8-KJ-The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger and of great mercy; ER-The Lord is kind, merciful, patient and full of love; ICB-The Lord is kind and shows mercy. He does not become angry quickly but is full of love; CEV-Always loving*
 - b. *1Jn4:8-God is love* (Agape-Benevolence-The disposition (inclination, propensity, frame of mind, temperate) to do good; Kindness; Love accompanied with the desire to promote happiness; Charity-Disposition of heart which inclines one to think favorably of another and do them good with liberality and relieve people of distress)
 - c. *God is love* means it's His disposition and nature to do good; *Ps119:68-TL-You are good and do only good*
 - d. *God is love* means He desires to promote your happiness and prosperity; *Ps35:27*
3. The Lord is good to all – Is He? Do you believe that? You either believe the Bible or you don't
 - a. *9-KJ-The Lord is good to all; and his tender mercies are over all his works; CSB-The Lord is good to everyone; EXB-He is merciful, compassionate to all he has made; TP-Your tender love is blended into everything you do*
4. The Lord helps those who are in trouble
 - a. *14-KJ-The Lord upholds all that fall, and raises up all those that be bowed down; CEV-When someone stumbles or falls, you give a helping hand; ERV-The Lord lifts up people who have fallen. He helps those who are in trouble. NCV-Helps those who have been defeated and takes care of those who are in trouble*
 - b. Many believe, that when people are in trouble sometimes they pray & God does nothing b/c He it's not His will
5. The Lord has an open hand, a giving hand NOT a withholding hand
 - a. *16-KJ-You open your hand, and satisfy the desire of everything living thing; ERV-You open your hand and give every living thing all that it needs; NABRE-You open wide your hand – You close your hand and withhold? No you open it and give*
 - b. *Ps84:11-No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly; Ps85:12-The Lord shall give that which is good*
6. The Lord is fair and kind in all He does – Do you believe this? Is this true?
 - a. *17-KJ-The Lord is righteous in all His ways and holy (kind) in all his works; TLB-The Lord is fair in everything He does; NASB-Kind in all His deeds; NLV-Kind in all His works; RSV-Kind in all his doings*
 - b. Many don't believe this (he's fair and kind) because of stuff they see and experiences they've had
7. The Lord is ready to help, wants to help
 - a. *18-KJ-The Lord is nigh (at hand, next, ready) to all them that call upon him, to all that call upon Him in truth; NIRV-The Lord is ready to help all those who call out to him*
 - b. *Psalms46:1-A very present (ready) help in trouble*
 - c. *Is30:18-AMP-The Lord earnestly waits [expecting, looking, and longing] to be gracious to you*
 - d. Many believe that sometimes He doesn't help because He doesn't want to help
8. The Lord fulfills desires, hears cries and delivers
 - a. *19-He will fulfill the desire of them who fear him he also will hear their cry & save them-EX-Gives them what they want-GN-Supplies the needs*
 - b. Why does He only do this for those who fear Him? It's an issue of access
9. The Lord preserves, protects, keeps all them that love Him – Do you believe this?
 - a. *20-KJ-The Lord preserves (keep, guard, protect, save, hedge) all them that love him: but all the wicked he will destroy*
 - b. God is fair; This is not what God wanted-*Lm3:33-For he doth afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men; Ez33:11-I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked* – This destruction doesn't come quickly b/c He's slow to anger

B. It's not the nature of God or way of God to NOT want to help, heal, deliver, preserve and protect

1. Many say, "Well it just wasn't God's will." – That's saying God didn't want to or it wasn't what God wanted
2. If Psalm 145 is true you can never say God doesn't to – If Psalm 145 is true you have to believe God always wants to
 - a. *Mt8:3-TP-A leper walked up to Jesus and threw himself down before him in worship and said, "Lord, you have the power to heal me if you want to." Jesus reached out his hand and touched the leper and said, "Of course I want to heal you."*
3. "He didn't want to" is not the way of God – He's not a God that doesn't want to – He's a God that wants to; He always wants to – "He didn't want to" that isn't an option

II. **The reality is God is not doing this in everybody's life and so the question is why not? If He wants to then why isn't He? If we know He wants to (and we know he wants to) then why isn't He?**

A. Mark 6:1-6-The reason why God doesn't is that He can't, the reason why He didn't is because He couldn't

1. This reality is not taught even in charismatic churches – What we are taught and inundated with is that God can do anything – According to **THIS SCRITPURE** could God do miracles in Nazareth? No
2. God can do anything in terms of power/ability, but not in terms of access (Rev19:6-God is all-powerful)
 - a. When it says God couldn't it's not an issue of power, but an issue of access
 - b. There's nothing God cannot do for lack of ability; There's a whole lot he can't do for lack of access

B. God can want to do something, but not be able to do something for lack of access

1. 2Pt3:9-God is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering towards us, not willing (desire) that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance – God clearly doesn't want people perishing and yet they are; Why doesn't He do something about it? He can't
2. Matt23:37-He wanted to care for them and couldn't not for lack of power, but for lack of access; **ERV-You kill the prophets. You stone to death those God has sent to you. Many times I wanted to help your people. I wanted to gather them together has a hen gathers her checks under her wings. But you did not let me; CEV-You wouldn't let me**
3. So often for many of my people much of what I want to do I can't do because they won't allow me to
4. Can God not be able to do something He wants to do in your life for lack of access? Are their things believers can do that shut God out and leave Him on the outside looking in? This is happening more often than we realize

C. This belief that God can do anything will cloud your understanding of who God is and how He operates

1. If you believe God can do anything, the next question will be, then why didn't He do something about this awful situation? Many b/c their belief is that, God can do anything, are then forced to answer He just didn't want to - That answer is unacceptable brings accusations against the goodness of God and brings into question the nature of God
2. When people see something not happening, their immediate thought is that God just didn't want to do anything because He's God and if He wanted to He could have – Is that always true? Or is it possible He couldn't?

D. Anytime God could He did, anytime He didn't He couldn't otherwise He would have because He wanted to