

Awake, O Sleeper!

I want you to think of someone who is asleep or how you are when you sleep. Are they conscious to what is going on around them? Obviously not, they're asleep. Are they able to think clearly? I know I don't...I don't really think clearly for the first 30 minutes after waking up. I want us to think clearly and awake to righteousness and the first step is to make a change.

A change in how we think

Isaiah 55:6-9 tell us that God's thoughts and ways are not just different than ours, they are much higher. God's thoughts and really everything about Him is far greater than us. They are so high that maybe we shouldn't try to figure them out. That's what I thought when I was growing up, but I don't believe this passage is trying to send that message.

Why are His thoughts so much higher? Easy answer is He's God! He created all things including you and me so without a doubt His thoughts are higher. So we should...deal with it? That's not how I read it anymore. Look at **verse 7** and notice what wicked and unrighteous are to do. Forsake their way and thoughts or you might say abandon them. Leave the way that seems natural to him and "return to the Lord." Also in **verse 6** the writer says "Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him." I see both of these statements as an encouragement to draw close to God and the reason is given in **verse 8**.

We should seek the Lord and mold ourselves to be closer to Him, making our thoughts and ways His because He is higher and greater. However, do not forget that His ways and thoughts are already established and given to us through His Word. That is the key to unlocking His thoughts and seeing His ways clearly.

What things may get in the way of attaining God's thoughts and changing from unrighteous to righteous?

Romans 7 13:25 gives us a pretty good answer and some ways this concept of our thoughts being changed could apply. We do these things that we shouldn't do, don't even want to do and most importantly God wouldn't have us to do, but why?

It is a WAR. Righteous v. Unrighteous, Light v. Darkness and Flesh v. Mind

In the times of Paul many were denying Christ and in particular His resurrection. **1 Corinthians 15:34** says to wake up. Today we have a struggle against those that say we should look out for #1...me. People call it the Me generation and things like that and we can probably justify many things we do because they are in our best interest.

Wake up! Did Christ act in His own best interest? Did He come to be served or to serve?

Think the way God would have us to think and be like our Savior. In **Romans 13: 11-14** we read that it was time to awake and I believe it is just as true today. Put away darkness and put on the armor of light. Put on Christ in every aspect of life.

Put on Christ...

- when you talk
- in dealing with others
- when you want to have fun
- when you consider your future
- when you really want something and maybe it's not a bad thing

I get texts from a family member sometimes and at the end it will say, "Take care of you!" I do and I will continue to do that to a certain extent, but God can take care of me better than I can. He knows what is best and given my experiences when I trust in myself, I believe he knows what is best for me. Put on Christ and change how you think by trusting in the Creator and take care of others. Christ exemplifies in His prayer before the cross in [John 17](#).