

# GOD'S THOUGHTS FOR YOU

By Jeff DeVine

I want to introduce you to a concept that is not well known or understood, and is rarely taught in most churches. This is something that the Holy Spirit has been ministering to me all my life and especially the last two years.

This is part of our very purpose for being. God created us for the purpose of having relationship with Him. God's greatest desire is for relationship with us, His children. Out of our relationship with Him flow the other issues of our lives; our marriage, relationship with our children, friends, our ministry and our vocations. Is God concerned about any of those things? I submit to you that He is very interested in all those areas of our lives.

I used to think that God is not that concerned about the details of our lives. I thought that God was only concerned that we live a good life, be a good person, try not to sin, go to church as often as we can and pray occasionally, just to stay in touch with God about our needs, and if we are really spiritual, read the Bible once in a while. Actually, this way of life doesn't even indicate the first priority of God; a close intimate relationship with us.

Most people think that God sent His son into the world to save us from hell and give us a ticket to heaven. This way of thinking, is so prevalent in the body of Christ today that it is no wonder that most Christians are living defeated, miserable lives. Divorce among Christians matches or exceeds that of the world. Sickness, despair, depression, hopelessness, obesity; which by the way seems to be the "acceptable sin", are so common among Christians. In most cases, if you just look at the average Christians life, you will see very little difference from the lives of the average non Christian. My brethren, this ought not to be.

New Testament Christians are supposed to be the envy of the world. The world should be looking at us and seeing examples of health, prosperity, peace, joy and success. Our marriages should be the example the world wants to follow. Our children should be happy and secure, respectful and polite. People should see our children and see a difference in them from other children in the world.

Unfortunately the way most Christians are living is no different from a good Buddhist. A good Buddhist is taught to patiently endure the misery of life and wait until it's all over. Sound familiar? I have talked to so many Christians that tell me how they can't wait to go to heaven. If getting us to heaven was God's goal, He'd just kill us as soon as we accepted Christ.

A friend of mine was recently at a youth camp. He asked the group a question, how many felt hopeless, thought of suicide, wanted to harm themselves, were miserable at times and felt that there was no purpose for their lives? To his surprise, in a group of over 200 children of born again spirit filled Christians; approximately 75% raised their hands. I'm telling you this should wake us up. Something is terribly wrong. What did Jesus say he came to earth for?

*"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly". John 10:10 KJV*

It appears that the thief is having more of an impact on the life of Christians than Jesus. I say this by observing the condition of the lives of the average Christian. Again, I say, this ought not to be.

What are we being taught? What are we meditating on and what are we teaching? Christians somehow seem to want to swim in a mire of defeat and self pity. They sing songs of such misery, self imposed humility, which isn't true humility but rather a mentality of poverty and defeat.

*"Just give me a shack in the far corner of heaven." "Oh when we get to heaven." "I'm only human, I'm just a man, Lord help me just one day at a time."*

There is even a popular "Christian" band called Desperation. Why in the world would Christians call them selves desperate? "Desperate" means without hope, defeated. I tell you, there is an identity crisis in the body of Christ.

We must renew our minds and be not conformed to this world. This world is truly hopeless, miserable, and in need of a savior.

Jesus is the only answer; the world only knows to look to material physical things for satisfaction. We know, these things only give pleasure for a short season and give no lasting satisfaction.

*"Then Samuel said to the people, Do not fear. You have done all this wickedness; yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. And do not turn aside; for then you would go after empty things which cannot profit or deliver, for they are nothing." (1 Samuel 12:20-21) NKJV*

I tell you this world has nothing to offer, why then do we insist on seeking pleasure in it as if God has no other plan for our lives?

*"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." (Jeremiah 29:11) KJV*

My friend Blake and I were talking about this verse and he pointed out that many times this verse is quoted as the “plans” that God has for us. Plans, from his prospective as a land surveyor are something that is laid out on paper, carved in stone if you will. Rigid, set. When accomplished, are put away and archived. This verse is more accurately relating the continual thoughts that God has for us.

I believe these next verses bring out the depth of the thoughts God has for us.

Psalms 139:1-18

*(1) O LORD, You have searched me and known me.*

*(2) You know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you understand my thought afar off.*

*(3) You comprehend my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.*

*(4) For there is not a word on my tongue,  
but behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.*

*(5) You have hedged me behind and before,  
and laid Your hand upon me.*

*(6) Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
It is high, I cannot attain it.*

*(7) Where can I go from Your Spirit?  
Or where can I flee from Your presence?*

*(8) If I ascend into heaven, You are there;  
If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.*

*(9) If I take the wings of the morning,  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,*

*(10) Even there Your hand shall lead me,  
and Your right hand shall hold me.*

*(11) If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me,*

*"Even the night shall be light about me;*

*(12) Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You,*

*but the night shines as the day;*

*the darkness and the light are both alike to You.*

*(13) For You formed my inward parts;*

*You covered me in my mother's womb.*

*(14) I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;*

*marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.*

*(15) My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret,*

*and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.*

*(16) Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.*

*And in Your book they all were written,*

*the days fashioned for me,*

*when as yet there were none of them.*

*(17) How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God!*

*How great is the sum of them!*

*(18) If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand;*

*when I awake, I am still with You. NKJV*

By these verses we see that God is not just casually concerned that we live a good life, but rather has very detailed and specific thoughts and desires for our lives. His thoughts are unending.

If we look at anything in God's creation, it is so intricately and specifically detailed in design. Is it a wonder that we, the crown jewel of God's creation would be any less detailed and intricately planned and considered?

I believe the reason many Christians are living such hopeless defeated lives is a lack of knowledge that God has very specific thoughts and desires for our lives. Apart from this knowledge, people tend to go through life like the world, like a ball in a pinball machine, just bouncing around without purpose or direction. Life like this is based on circumstances and not with the direction of the Holy Spirit. Some will accidentally find a degree of what the world would call success, but never finding the total satisfaction and fulfillment that God desires for our lives.

*“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.”*

(Isaiah 55:8-9) KJV

Jesus defined eternal life as intimately knowing the father and His son whom He sent. (John 17:3) Salvation is often reduced to a ticket out of hell and into heaven. I tell you through the knowledge of the truth we can live abundantly blessed lives now. We are not to just endure the misery of this life with the hope of someday going to Heaven. Apart from the knowledge of God’s plans and the direction of God in our lives we risk living the way that seems right to us.

Proverbs 14:12 tells us *“There is a way which seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”*

This is what we see going on in too many Christians lives; just living life according to what seems right, without any real purpose or direction.

Jesus lived his life by very specific direction, He said he only does what he sees his father do. (John 5:19) Should we do any less?

Actually we don’t even need to give thought to the things of this life, where we will go, what we should do.

Matthew 6:31-33 tells us *“Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?”*

*(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knows that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”*

God’s direction in our lives will come from an overflow of our intimate relationship with Him. You see it’s all about relationship.

Jeremiah 33:3 says *“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”*

The awesome blessed, healthy, prosperous, abundant life that we all desire to live, the life that God desires for us to live, the life that every Christian should be living comes not by seeking it, planning and scheming to acquire it, not by any effort on our part, but is provided in the new covenant, in the finished work of Jesus Christ. It will not manifest by our efforts, but automatically, effortlessly as the fruit of an intimate relationship with our Heavenly father and His son, our lord and savior, Jesus Christ whom He sent.

Brothers and sisters, know that the thoughts that God has for you are too numerous to count, they are specific, detailed and more awesome than you can imagine.