DOING THINGS GOD'S WAY

Introduction:

***Only a fool lives life his own way:**
Prov 12:15
The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.
Prov 16:25
There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

***The wicked do not desire God's ways:**
Job 21:14-15
Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways. What is the Almighty, that we should serve him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto him?

***All of us, once went our own way, but then we realized Christ died for us:**
Isa 53:6
All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Like it or not, God's ways are vastly different than the World's ways.
Isa 55:8-9
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.

*It pays to do it God's way!

- ***God's ways may seem foolish, but they are really wise***
  1 Cor 1:25 - "The foolishness of God is wiser than men…"

God not only has a message the unsaved, perishing world regards as *"foolish"* (I Cor.1:18, 21, 23, 25), but He also has messengers they mighty view as foolish.
God not only has a gospel the godless, unconverted, lost, pagan world would disregard, but He has a people that often don't add up to much in the world's estimation.

God is not desperately "looking for millionaires or famous athletes or entertainers or statesmen" as if He needed their money, fame, fortune, or talent to get His work done!
The Lord specializes in converting simple folk, common people, the under-privileged, the down-and-outers, the project kids, and other looked-down-upon groups.

Some might say: "That's because they are the only ones dumb enough to believe the Bible."
No, actually, they are the only ones humble enough to believe!
Jesus said, *"I thank Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou didst hide these things from the wise and understanding, and didst reveal them unto babes."* (Mt. 11:25).

God delights in taking a Sarah who could not bear children and making her the mother of one of the largest races on earth (Gen. 18:14, 32:12)

God delights in taking a humble slave like Joseph and elevating him second to Pharaoh over Egypt (Gen. 41:38-44).

God delights in enlisting 300 soldiers of Gideon to fight and conquer 120,000 Mideanites (Jud. 7:2, 7, 12; 8:10) (NOTE: 400 to 1 odds).

God delights in utilizing a Samson to destroy 1,000 wicked Philistines with a jawbone of a donkey (Jud. 15:16).

God delights in using a red-headed, freckle-faced, baby-faced (I Sam. 17:42) shepherd boy named David to wipe out a 9'9" fully armored Philistine named Goliath (I Sam. 17).

God delights in providing adequate food for a poor widow of Zarephath who only had a few drops of oil and a handful of grain (I Ki. 17:9ff).

God delights in using three Hebrew youths to show up King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon (Dan. 3).

God delights in using as His mouthpiece a John the Baptist, "who had no formal education, no training in a trade or profession, no money, no military rank, no political position, no social pedigree, no impressive appearance (or diet!)" (MacArthur, p. 51). Yet Jesus said, *"Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist"* (Mt. 11:11).

God delights in taking a boy's lunch consisting of two sardines and five bite-size biscuits to feed 5,000 men besides women and children (Mt. 14:17-19).

"Little is much when God is in it." -- Conversely, much is little, if God is not in it!

God delights in taking unlearned, ignorant, dumb fishermen from Galilee and turning them into the most bold and influential mortals ever to spread the Gospel message (Acts 4:13).

- ***God's ways may seem unfair, but they are just & true.***
  Rev 15:3
  And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

- ***God's ways may seem narrow & unpopular, but they lead to eternal life.***
  Matt 7:13-14
  Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

- ***God's ways may seem like "a drag" (drudgery), but really they are delightful.***
  Ps 37:23
  The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

- ***God's way may seem old fashioned, but they have been "time tested" and have been proven to be perfect.***
  Ps 18:30
  As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.

Doing things God's way involves:

1) **<u>Trusting</u> God**
Ps 37:5
Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

2) **<u>Waiting</u> on God**
Ps 37:34
Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it.

How can I know God's ways?

To know God's ways you must…

1. **<u>FEAR</u> Him**
Ps 25:12
What man is he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose.
2 Chr 6:31 - That they may fear thee, to walk in thy ways…
(Fearing God is the first step toward gaining His wisdom - Prov.9:10)

2. **<u>PRAY</u> to Him**
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Ps 27:11 - Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.
It is God who broadens our understanding of His ways - Ps 119:32 - I will run the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart.

3. **<u>BE HUMBLE</u> enough to learn His ways**
Ps 25:9
The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.

4. **<u>TAKE HEED</u> to His Word**
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Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

5. **<u>YIELD</u> to His Providential Guidance**
Ps 32:8
I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.
Ps 107:7
And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation.
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And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

6. **Beware of what you allow to enter your <u>eye gate</u>**
Ps 119:37
Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.

7. Avoid the <u>Immoral woman</u>

Prov 2:19-20
None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life.
That thou mayest walk in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous.

8. <u>Hate</u> false ways and <u>Love</u> the truth

Ps 119:104
Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.
Ps 119:30
I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid before me.

When you do things God's way…

- **You make the most efficient use of your <u>time</u>** (Ps.90:12)
  [Note: the example of Jesus Christ's 3 ½ year ministry (Jn.21:25)]
- **You make the most skillful use of your <u>talent</u>**
- **You find the smoothest path for your <u>feet</u>** (Prov.3:5,6)
  [Contrast this with the way of the sinful (Prov.13:15; 15:10)]
- **You make the greatest investment of your <u>life</u>**

What are some practical areas of our lives where we must know God's ways:

Salvation

Rearing our children

Fulfilling our marriage roles

Managing our money

Spending our time

Working our job etc.

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- **You make the most efficient use of your time** (Ps.90:12)
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