

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 72. Thoughts and ways



**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S):** Isaiah 55:6-9

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

**LOOKING FURTHER:** Genesis 2:7; Matthew 18:21-22; Psalm 139:1-18, 23-24

### What does this Bible passage tell us?

Isaiah was one of the great prophets. His name means "God saves". The Book of Isaiah, in the Old Testament, is about messages which God gave to Isaiah about Judah and Jerusalem during the second half of the 8th century before Jesus's birth. These messages are still relevant for us today.

Verse 6 tells us that we should seek God because He is not distant. It is His breath which gave us life (Genesis 2:7) and He is so close to us that all we need to do is reach out to Him.

In verse 7, Isaiah says that if we do or think things which are not of God, we should turn back to Him and He will have mercy on us and forgive us. He forgives us freely! He does this through His grace, not through any effort on our part other than reaching out to Him in repentance with the desire to live His way.

God does not hold grudges or even remember our sins. Once we turn to Him we are totally forgiven and have a fresh start. How many times does He do this? Seventy-seven times, in other words – always. That is how many times Jesus told Peter to forgive other people (Matthew 18:22), and God never asks us to do more than He is prepared to do Himself. In fact, as it says in the rest of our passage, God's thoughts and ways are so much higher than ours that He will do far more for us than we can even imagine.

### Reflections:

- Why do you think that the messages God gave to Isaiah nearly 3,000 years ago are still relevant for us today?
- In what ways can you reach out to God?
- If there are things you need to tell God you are sorry for, do not be afraid. He is waiting with great love to hear from you.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.

**MY THOUGHTS  
ARE NOT YOUR  
THOUGHTS,  
NEITHER ARE  
YOUR WAYS  
MY WAYS**



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

