



Session 1-2

Today we're going to focus on some challenging verses and ask that you deeply consider what God's desires may be for your life. There are many passages in the Scripture that bring us peace and comfort, but others like this one that challenge our thinking and urge us to draw nearer to Him in trust and obedience.

Scripture focus

God spoke His Word through the prophet Isaiah: "Seek the Lord where He may be found; call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. 'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways', declares 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. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

For you will go out with joy and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Instead of the thorn bush the cypress will come up, and instead of the nettle the myrtle will come up, and it will be a memorial to the Lord, for an everlasting sign which will not be cut off'. Isaiah 55: 6-13

Prayer

Father in heaven, we ask that You open our eyes to Your work in our lives around us. Give us the wisdom to see where You are moving and the courage to join You. We know that Your plans for Your people are good, and we trust You. Lord please search out any unrighteousness in us and help us become more like You over time as we seek You and study Your Word.

Application to your life

- Verses 6-7: Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon
 - Are there ways you notice God's compassion in your life, and how He has abundantly pardoned you ?
 - Think of both recent and past instances of God's compassion
- Verse 8-9: For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, declares 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.
 - In what ways do you think God's thoughts might be higher than your thoughts?
 - Do you think your thoughts are becoming more like His over time, or less?
- Verse 11: So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire
 - What do you believe the Lord desires in your life right now?
 - Why do you believe this?
- Do you notice God speaking to you?
 - What does He ask of you?
 - Are you willing to do what He calls you to do?