

Spiritual Difficulties

Isaiah 55:8-9 [NIV] *“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.’”*

Because of this fact, it is a false assumption that everything in heaven and earth can be explained by human intellect and thoughts.

2 Timothy 3:16 [King James] *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:”*

The Christian Bible is a record of God’s thoughts as it has been inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Any person who claims to understand all that has been recorded in the Christian Bible is acting presumptuously. [**Psalms 19:13-14**]

Far better than the attempt to understand is the humility that admits its ignorance and waits quietly on God to enlighten us in His own time.

John 16:12-13 [NIV] *“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”*

We have this promise from Jesus Christ that all will be revealed eventually when that knowledge is needed to further the plan of God for humanity.

I have a very small example of this actually happening in my own ministry. I was visiting a person who had shown interest in the Church and had been studying the Christian Bible. They asked if I could explain one certain scripture in the Old Testament, and I knew that this was very important to them. I turned to this scripture and I could **not** remember even reading it before, but suddenly I found myself explaining the background and full significance of it. I was learning it all myself as I spoke. [**Luke 12:11-12**]

We will be better able to understand when we have accepted the humbling truth that there are many things in heaven and earth that we shall never be able to understand.

We need to make space in our mind for the mystery of our Creator God.

Psalms 25:9 [NIV] *“He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.”*

King David understood this promise from the Creator God whom he worshipped.

To those who have, perhaps unintentionally, degraded their conception of God to the level of human understanding, it may appear frightening to admit that there are many things in the scriptures and more things about the Godhead that transcend the human intellect.

Ezekiel 37:1-3 [NIV] *“The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me to and fro among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, ‘Son of man, can these bones live?’ I said, ‘O Sovereign LORD, you alone know.’”*

Had Ezekiel answered yes or no, he would have closed off his mind to the mighty mystery which confronted him and would have missed the wonder of the presence of God at work revealing His purpose and plan.

Never forget that it is a privilege to wonder, to stand in delighted silence before the Supreme Mystery that is God and whisper, “O Lord God, You alone know!”

I have already quoted the last two verses of **Psalm 19** but to understand the full impact of those words we need to read and meditate on the whole Psalm.

David in his meditation leads him from God’s physical creation [**verses 1-6**], through God’s Word [**verses 7-11**] to his own personal daily experiences and fight against sin [**verses 12-14**].

1 Corinthians 1:20-25 [NIV] *“Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than man’s wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man’s strength.”*

The very power of Christ’s crucifixion lies in the fact that it is the wisdom of God and **not** the wisdom of human beings.

The day we consider we can explain everything spiritual will be the day that we have, for ourselves, destroyed everything divine.

This inability to be able to explain everything spiritual does **not** put the Christian on the defensive.

We have but to turn and ask non-Christians to explain this earth and universe, also the life force within humans that give us far superior intelligence than any other creature.

Job 32:8 [NIV] *“But it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding.”*

This is a spiritual mystery to any scientist but explains a vast number of things that science **cannot** understand. [**John 3:10-13**]

If we, as Christians, are compelled to explain, so are all non-Christians and both of us do a poor job of it. For mystery lies all about us from the atom to the human spirit in every person. All any of us can honestly do is to bow our heads in worship and say, “O Lord God, You alone know.”

Psalms 8:3-9 [NIV] *“When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honour. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!”*

Probably David was lying on his back on the green meadow grass at night, meditating on the mystery of the moon and visible stars and how small humans are in the total scheme of things.

The astronomer in his pride weighs and measures these heavenly bodies yet **cannot** explain the source of the power that keeps them all within their boundaries.

If such an astronomer would humble himself and confess his deep inward need to understand, the God of David would teach him how to accept the mystery and worship the Creator God, and by so doing will make him a greater man than he could ever have been otherwise.

John 17:3 [NIV] *“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”*

Even being offered eternity humans will **never fully** understand the wisdom, power and character of the God that all true Christians worship.