

"God works in mysterious ways." We hear that phrase frequently. Usually it's when we can't understand what Yehovah is doing, or make sense of why things are like they are. And sometimes it's when something unexpectedly good happens out of a bad situation.

Although it's not a quote from the scriptures, it is scriptural:

*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither 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."* Isaiah 55:8-9

But typically, when we throw something in the "mysterious" category, we leave it there. We chalk it up to never being able to understand God's ways. But in doing so, we miss what he would like to reveal to us.

Remember Psalm 25:2:

*"It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out."*

And Psalm 25:14:

*"The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant."*

And Jeremiah 33:2-3:

*"Thus says the Lord who made the earth, the Lord who formed it to establish it—the Lord is his name: Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known."*

Yehovah doesn't desire to be alone in his mysteries. He desires to share himself with us. He desires that we seek him, "search things out," for us to know his secrets and to tell us "great and hidden things that we have not known." He wants us to pursue him, implore him to explain his mystery to us, and not give up or assume we can't know.

Have you ever dropped a hint that you hoped someone would pick up on? You know they hear you, but they just cock their head and move on. On the other hand, those who know you and love you, catch it and realize that there's more to it. They ask questions to see what's behind that, to get the full meaning of what you're hinting at and to understand you better.

### Here's the issue:

The Creator of the universe is trying to communicate to his children from outside the limits of human understanding. His thoughts *are not* our thoughts, his ways *are* higher than ours. He could easily put his thoughts in our head; or he could continually send people to us with, "Thus sayeth the Lord..." But he's the Creator of the universe. Creating is his specialty. Have you noticed he rarely does the same thing twice the exact same way? This is why Moses could not enter the Promised Land – he struck the rock for water as he had done before, instead of speaking to it as Yehovah instructed him to. And Yehovah identifies his action as "not trusting in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites." (Numbers 20:6-12). He does not want to be predictable, formulaic, routinized or boxed in to human limits. He wants to show us his holiness by his power to do whatever he wants in whatever way he wants to do it. He wants us worshipping *him*, not the process, not just doing it the same way we did it last time.

This type of communication is based on a relationship, not a checklist; it requires our pursuit of him as the Creator vs. our normal human interactions. He wants to show us his glory as we pursue him and his heart. He wants to reveal -- and keep revealing -- more of who he is to us through our various experiences of him. When we confine him to our own understanding and our own modes of communication, he can still communicate to us, but we miss the additional revelation of who he is and who he wants to be with us.

Sometimes he speaks to us and it doesn't make sense to us. So we stash it away and hope that it makes sense later. But he's calling to you, inviting you to join him; it's an indication that he wants to show you something. I encourage you to "call to him," seek him and ask him, and watch for his answer to unfold. Revisit it daily, remind him that you want to know more. He will reward your pursuit of him.

But in your listening and watching, consider that he is God – יהוה -- and allow him to communicate to you in supernatural ways and thoughts that are "higher than yours." If we expect him to communicate only like we do, then we will miss the brilliance of his

voice in all of the variety of ways that he wants to share himself with us. He's not just a bigger, smarter one of us. If we only hear and obey when things are spelled out in black and white as we would with another human being, we will never mature in our relationship with him nor advance in our understanding of who he is. We have to allow for and expect the supernatural and the spiritual realm to be at work in our communication with the Creator of the universe.

When you're just learning a language, you have to stick with transactional sentences. But as you begin to understand the culture, you start to hear the humor, the nuances, the slang, the connotations. Eventually you can comprehend the full meaning of what's being said and your conversations and relationships are richer for it.

He may speak to you through a verse or passage in the Bible, sometimes through a friend, or even a stranger. Sometimes he shows us a picture, a dream or a vision. Sometimes he uses words we hear in our heart -- maybe a whole explanation, maybe a phrase, maybe just one word. Sometimes he speaks to us through nature or the circumstances around us, sometimes it's a song. He may use all of these and more in a typical week.

One time he spoke to me in my deceased father's voice. I was stunned and curious. As I inquired about that, he explained that he wanted me to hear and receive the message as I would from my father. And he was right, it took on different and deeper meaning because of that. Recently he gave me one word that I had to go search out and pray about and ask others for confirmation. By the end of the day the message was clear and had far-reaching implications. I was glad I pursued it to the end. Sometimes he directs me to do something that seems completely random, unrelated. But when I do it, all of a sudden things change, and there's the answer to my prayer.

### **Yes, God speaks in mysterious ways.**

Dig in and indulge him. Allow him to be God, not limited to human ways of communicating. Follow the rabbit trail wherever it leads, and you will not only receive his instruction, but he will reveal his mystery to you. You will be amazed at his creativity, his sense of humor, the depth and many facets of his message to you. He will bring you into his secret place and reveal himself to you in new ways that will increase your understanding and love for him. Allow for the mysterious, enter into the adventure and enjoy the journey with him.

*"The king answered and said to Daniel, 'Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries.'" Daniel 2:47*