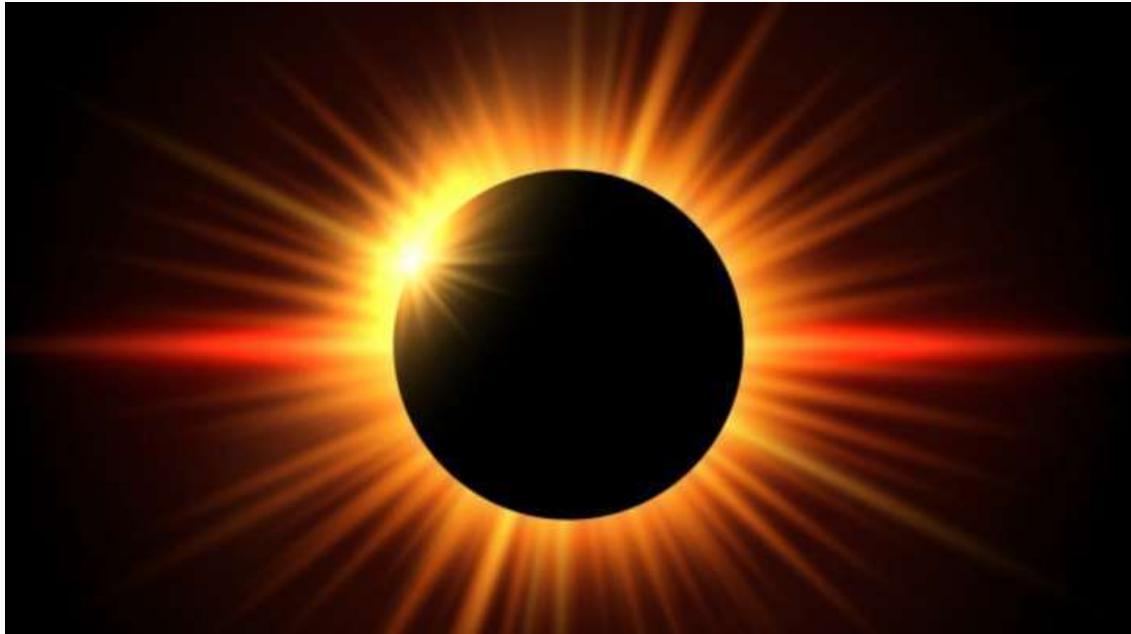




Align... Today!



“‘My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,’ says the Lord. ‘And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.’”

The Lord | Isaiah 55:8 (NLT)

Call Out...Today!

When you have quiet moments, what do you spend your time imagining about? Most would describe a pleasant or exciting time, an escape, perhaps saying, “Wouldn’t it be amazing if....” Even as I write this my mind drifts to my perfect imagined world. No problems, no aches and pains,

full of beauty... a perfect future!

Ever wonder what God imagines about? He already knows every detail of your perfect future. It's sweet for both you and him. No need for him to imagine about that! What then? Who can really know... My guess is that God imagines how sweet it would be if you were closer to him now. He wants intimacy with you so much! Must he go without until you enter Heaven?

"Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known." The Lord | Jeremiah 33:3 (ESV)

Today he anxiously awaits your call, ready to sit with you and share things you've never heard before. What could be sweeter to the almighty God? At the same time, what could be more frustrating... having to resort to imagining such intimacy with us?

Not wanting to wait, how far will God go to get your attention, to bring you to the point of calling out... today?

At Odds with God... Who Wins?

Whether your future is known or unknown changes the focus of the imaginer. It's the difference between God's ways and our ways. Not really knowing ours, we resort to imagining, longing and striving for it. On the other hand, he knows our futures 100%, leading him to look at our earth-bound time completely differently. In the midst, we imagine smooth, carefree lives. God imagines intimacy with maturing holiness in us. Our thinking is opposed to God's and he tells us so... *"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts says the Lord."*

God will not rest (nor let us rest) when it comes to fulfilling his desire for

intimacy with us. His tool to get us to call out? Affliction... and it flies in the face of our desires.

God knows it takes affliction for us to seek intimacy with him today and such intimacy is the precursor to holiness. Why would God spare you? Are you above Jesus who faced ongoing harassment by the Pharisees, with him ultimately being nailed to a cross? Talk about affliction! God spares no one because he doesn't want to merely imagine intimacy with us now.

"Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed, "My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done." Matthew 26:42 (NLT)

Notice the deep intimacy Jesus models for us... vulnerable, passionate, yet humble. He clearly didn't want the affliction, but he wanted his Father more. His purpose was aligned with the Father's.

"O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water." King David / Psalm 63:1 (NLT)

Likewise, when King David cried out from the desert, did he pray for rain? How could the thought not have entered his mind? Overpowering this, he passionately cried out for the Lord himself, the source of living water... the endless refreshment that comes only from intimacy with him. He too had aligned his purpose with God's.

"Our longing for life keeps confusing us about the purpose of life." John Eldridge / Moving Mountains

How long will you remain confused, with your purpose at odds with God's? Who can fight him on this and win?

Coach's Questions:

What do you pray for in the midst of life's struggles? Resolution from your affliction? Or intimacy with God? How long until you first seek what he is offering?

Align Instead

Failing to accept that God has completely different goals for our time here on Earth keeps us at odds with him and we suffer for it. Ironically, God offers us what we've imagined, but it comes from and after the intimate relationship he seeks. Think of David, did God provide him water to drink? Of course! All blessings originate from a deep and fresh relationship of intimacy with the source of all things.

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." The Apostle Paul | Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)

Little do we know that in the midst of our affliction is the peace that surpasses all understanding. Pray passionately as Jesus did. Seek intimacy with the Lord in the midst as David did. Call out today! From here the Lord will lead you into your life's work. God knows what you need more than you do and he wants to give it to you, but first he wants you to...

Align...Today!

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

When Affliction Knocks, I Open the Door to Intimacy with Jesus

"Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends."

Jesus Christ| Revelation 3:20 (NLT)



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