

The Foolishness of God

The Old Testament of the Bible chronicles numerous incidences when the Lord asks individuals to do preposterous things requiring complete trust in his goodness and wisdom. (It is far from easy for humans to understand God and see things from his perspective.) In each case, the intended outcome is to (1) test people's faith (trust) in him, (2) demonstrate his ability in humanly impossible situations and (3) typify the coming New Testament plan of salvation. Some examples of those who passed the test are Noah, Abraham, Job, Moses, Joshua, Joseph, Daniel, as well as unknown numbers of unnamed individuals.

It seems reasonable to me that *"...the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength....God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong"* (1 Corinthians 1:25,27).

"Do not deceive yourselves. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a 'fool' so that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: 'He catches the wise in their craftiness;' and again, 'The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile'" (1 Corinthians 3:18-20).

"I am the Lord...who overthrows the learning of the wise and turns it into nonsense..." (Isaiah 44:24-25).

"Jesus said, 'I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.'" (Luke 10:21).

There is a lot of sense in God's supposed nonsense. *"For the message of the cross [of Christ] is foolishness [sheer folly] to those who are perishing, but to us who are saved it is the power of God. For it is written: 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.' 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 the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe"* (1 Corinthians 1:18-21. Emphasis added.)

It is as though God is saying to humanity, "Since you have become so foolish, I will respond to your foolishness with my foolishness." (See Romans 1:21; Titus 3:3)

There is profound purpose behind God's faith concept. *"...so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power. We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood itWe have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned"* (1 Corinthians 2:5-8,12-14).

What is needed to see the wisdom behind the “foolishness” of the Gospel?

Here are a few requisites:

- Be proactive, persistent and passionate in your quest for God.
- Be open to the authenticity of the Word of God – the Bible.
- Pray for spiritual enlightenment.
- Have the belief, the faith and the trust that a child has.
- Be prepared to be considered a fool in the eyes of the world. ◇◇◇