

# An Appeal to Reason and Faith

by James Smith

---

*God asks us to submit to his wisdom and plan, and to trust in his goodness and justice.*

**Scripture:** Isaiah 55:8

**Topics:** "Divine Providence", "Faith And Trust"

---

## Description

James Smith preaches on God's questioning of Job's complaints and reflections on Divine Providence, highlighting the importance of trusting in God's wisdom, kindness, holiness, and knowledge. He emphasizes that God's ways are infinitely wise and just, even when they may be difficult for us to understand. Smith encourages believers to submit to God's plan, knowing that His motives are just and gracious, and that everything He does is for our good and His glory.

---

## Transcript

By Elihu, God asks Job: "Should I do just as you imagine--ought I to consult your whims? Should it be according to your mind?" Job 34:33

Poor Job found his trial too great for his patience, and he complained, he fretted himself, he reflected badly on God's dealings with him, and stumbled at the dispensations of Divine Providence. How often, how very often--do we do the same! We complain--when we ought to be grateful; we fret--when we ought to praise. We reflect badly on God's ways--when we ought to condemn ourselves; and we stumble at divine providences--when we ought to be resting on the promises.

Complain! What can a sinner have to complain of--who is out of hell? Fret! What can a believer have to fret about--whose heaven is secure? Reflect badly on God's dealings! What, when all his ways are mercy and truth--to such as keep his covenant and his testimonies? Stumble at divine providences! What should stumble us, who are assured that all things shall work together for our good?

With such conduct God may well be displeased! For such conduct God may well chastise us. But he condescends to reason with us. He appeals to our sense of right. He makes us reprove and correct ourselves. He asks US: "Should I do just as you imagine--ought I to consult your whims? Should it be according to your mind?"

To what does this apply? To God's dealings with us as individuals. Should the Most High God consult us--before he gives, or takes, works, or suspends his operations? Are we to be consulted as to the way in

which he will lead us home, or the means by which he will prepare us for the joys which are at his right hand? If the Lord promises to do us good by all things--is he to consult us as to how he shall work, or by whom, or by what he shall accomplish his purposes?

It will apply, also, to God's dealings with others. It may be our friends, or our foes; our relatives, or strangers; the Church, or the world. God has taken the management of His world, and every individual in it; of the Church, and every believer that composes it--into his own hand! He says, "My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure. I will work, and who shall hinder me?" Yes, who has a right to question him, or to find fault with him? Friend, do you claim such a right? From whence did you derive it? How do you vindicate it? Things may be done that baffle your reason, perplex your mind, confound your judgment, and grieve your heart--but may they not be right for all that? May they not be the wisest and the best? "Should it be according to your mind?"

But, why do you think thus?

Are you wiser than God? His wisdom is infinite. He is the only wise God, and he displays his wisdom in all he does, and in all he permits to be done. Is it possible that you can imagine yourself capable of devising a wiser plan, or of executing God's plan in a more judicious manner? But if not, "Should it be according to your mind?"

Are you kinder than God? His loving-kindness to man is declared in his word, proved by his works, and is gloriously displayed in our salvation by his Son. His loving-kindness is great beyond conception, and tender beyond description. Kinder than God! You--kinder than God? But if not, "Should it be according to your mind?"

Are you holier than God? He is holy in his nature, and holy in his works. He does nothing but what is strictly just, perfectly right, and calculated to produce the greatest good. If you are not more holy, more just, more righteous than God, "Should it be according to your mind?"

Are you better informed than God? Do you know more of the nature, dispositions, and tendencies of his creatures than he does? Can you see the end from the beginning, and the working of all things to bring about the end, fixed by his wisdom and grace--better than he does? In him dwells all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. He knows the whole and every part, the present and the future, which you do not! Your mind is dark, confused, selfish, unsettled, and often undecided! "Should it be according to your mind?"

In order to calm your mind in trouble, to compose your spirits under losses and crosses, remember that God acts in infinite wisdom. His plan, according to which he governs the world, and manages the affairs of every individual--is the perfection of wisdom. It will admit of no improvement. To alter it--would be to injure it. Whatever God does--he purposed to do; and whatever God purposed to do--is infinitely wise and good.

God's motives are just and gracious. God always has a reason for what he does--though he may not reveal it. Whatever he does--is prompted by his justice and grace. He is just to all--but gloriously gracious to his own people. Whatever God has purposed to do, or permit--is worthy of himself. We often act unworthily, and repent of doing it, feeling ashamed of it; but God never does anything, or permits anything--which is unworthy of his nature and character. We may not see this now, for his work is not finished, his plan is not fully carried out; and until it is, "it is the glory of God to conceal a thing!" But he has told us for our comfort, "You do not realize now what I am doing--but later you will understand."

The least we can do is to submit; we ought to approve and acquiesce. True, many things are very painful to flesh and blood, and are very trying to faith and patience; but we have only to give God time to explain himself--and all will be made clear and plain. Then we shall see why it was that we were: robbed of our property, bereaved of our children, separated from our friends, deprived of our health, and persecuted by the world. "The day shall reveal it!" And we shall see what we now profess to believe, that God is too wise to err--and too good to be unkind!

Oh, Christian, you should prefer God's wisdom, way, and work--to your own! Whatever he does--he does well! In all he does--he keeps your good and his own glory in view! And, therefore, when you are displeased with any of his dispensations, he asks you, "Should it be according to your mind?"

Unconverted sinner, God has devised and revealed a way of salvation, in which he can save you, and if you submit, he will save you--but only in his own way, which is entirely of free grace. Your own works count for nothing, Neither your prayers, nor tears, nor efforts--will count at all in the matter; it is all of grace, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Against this, your proud heart will rise; to it, you will perhaps raise many objections--but if you do, God's question to you, is, "Should it be according to your mind!" Whose will is to be consulted--the will of the Savior--or of those who need to be saved by him?

He has devised a way in infinite wisdom, he has determined to save in that way, though it cost him the life of his only begotten Son, and he is willing and able to save unto the uttermost, all who come unto God by him. Are you anxious to be saved by him? to be delivered from the wrath to come, to be entitled to and prepared for heaven? If so, God is willing to save you, and to you he says at this moment, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ--and you shall be saved!" "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him!"

"Should I do just as you imagine--ought I to consult your whims? Should it be according to your mind?"  
Job 34:33

---

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/james-smith/an-appeal-to-reason-and-faith/>

# *Grow in Your Walk with Christ*

---

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

**[www.sermonindex.net](http://www.sermonindex.net)**