

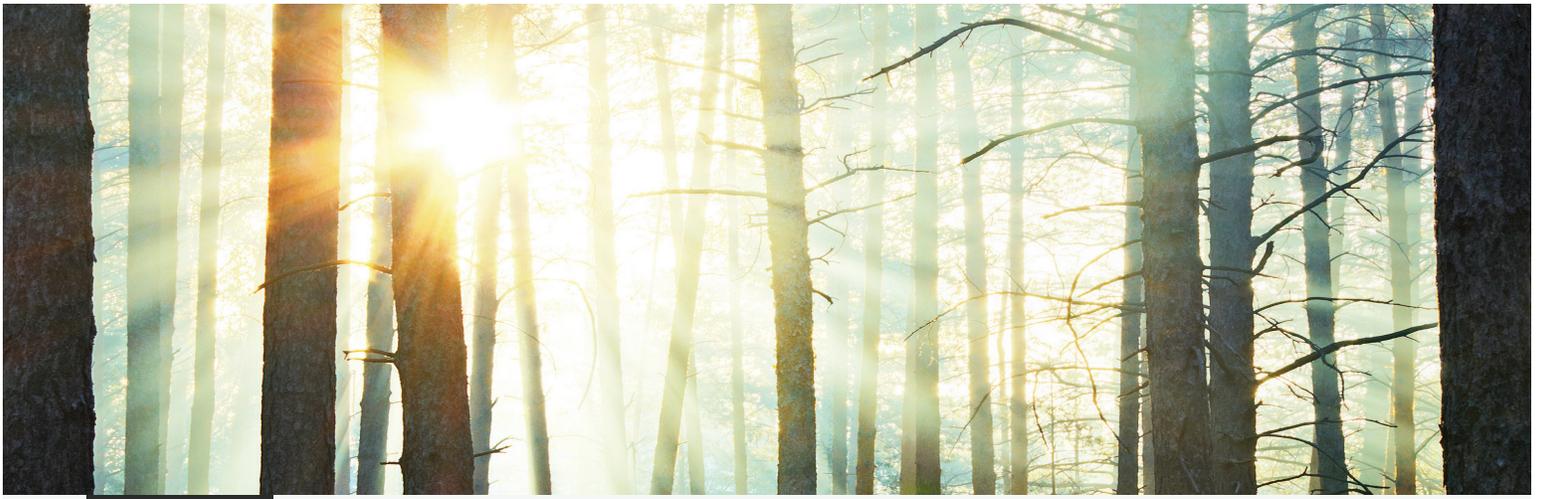
Readings from **A.W.**

# TOZER

COMMUNING WITH GOD



*A 4-Week Devotional*



A.W.TOZER

COMMUNING WITH GOD

## FROM THE EDITOR

*Communing with God* is a collection of 28 daily readings from the beloved 20th-century pastor and writer A. W. Tozer (1897–1963). These selections have been gleaned from his recorded sermons, his published books, and his editorials while serving as editor of *Alliance Witness* magazine (now *Alliance Life*). Each reflection has been carefully selected to introduce you to a significant theme in his teachings: communion with God.

Tozer's main goal as a pastor and writer was to help people love and worship the God who created them. With prophetic vigor, he urges us to recognize God's call to us so that we might live life as He intended in His presence.

The following selections have been divided into four weeks. In week 1, you will discover God's call to you, that He wants you to know Him and communion with Him. Not only that, you will discover how God has created you with the unique ability to know Him and long for Him. In week 2, you will learn that you can experience God in His Son, Jesus Christ, and that nothing compares to knowing Him. Week 3 focuses on the importance of devoting time to God. Finally, week 4 highlights the importance of worship, a key means by which we experience God and demonstrate our love for Him, and the ultimate goal of the Christian life: relationship with God.

For each day, you will find a passage of Scripture and a prayer included with each excerpt from Tozer. As a result of reading these sections, we hope and pray that you encounter God in a dynamic way and are filled with awe and love for Him.

Kevin P. Emmert  
Developmental Editor, Moody Publishers

WEEK ONE

GOD CALLING TO YOU

WEEK TWO

EXPERIENCING GOD IN CHRIST

WEEK THREE

BEING WITH GOD

WEEK FOUR

THE ULTIMATE GOAL

# GOD CALLING TO YOU

## WEEK ONE

### DAY 1 // A DIVINE VOICE

***And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? Genesis 3:9***

There is a divine voice that continues to call. It is the voice of the Creator God, and it is entreating us. Just as the shepherd went everywhere searching for his sheep, just as the woman in the parable went everywhere searching for her coin, so there is a divine search with many variations of the voice that entreats us, calling us back.

If we were not lost, there would be no Father's voice calling us to return, calling us back. So, I say again that we have not been given up.

Think of the Genesis account: Adam fleeing from the face of God, hiding among the trees of the garden. It was then that the sound of God's gentle voice was heard, saying "[Adam,] where are you?"

I would remind you that

His seeking voice has never died out. The echo of that voice is sounding throughout the widening years. It has never ceased to echo and reecho from peak to peak, from generation to generation, from race to race, and continent to continent, and off to islands and back to the continent again. Throughout all of man's years, "Adam, where are you?" has been the faithful call.

*I pray earnestly, O God, that I may not be found among those with hardened hearts, no longer able to hear Your voice. Please speak to me today...I'm listening.*

*~Mornings with Tozer*

“ ***Just as the shepherd went everywhere searching for his sheep, just as the woman in the parable went everywhere searching for her coin, so there is a divine search with many variations of the voice that entreats us, calling us back.***”

## DAY 2 // WE HAVE THE CAPACITY TO KNOW GOD

*All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you. John 16:15*

God wants to communicate with us through the avenues of our minds, our wills and our emotions. The continuous and unembarrassed interchange of love and thought between God and the soul of the redeemed man is the throbbing heart of New Testament religion!

The intercourse between God and the soul is known to us in conscious personal awareness. It is personal: that is, it does not come through the body of believers, as such, but is known to the individual, and to the body through the individuals which compose it. And it is conscious: that is, it does not stay below the threshold of consciousness and work there unknown to the soul.

“ **Being made in His image we have within us the to know Him.**

You and I are in little (our sins excepted) what God is in large. Being made in His image we have within us the capacity to know Him.

The moment the Spirit has quickened us to life in regeneration our whole being senses its kinship to God and leaps up in joyous recognition. That is the heavenly birth without which we cannot see the kingdom of God!

It is, however, not an end but an inception. That is where we begin, but where we stop no man has yet discovered, for there is in the awful and mysterious depths of the Triune God neither limit nor end!

*Lord, thank You for giving me the capacity to know you. I pray that today you would draw my mind to dwell on You and Your truth. Fill my mind with Your thoughts, and protect me from anything that would distract me from You.*

~Evenings with Tozer

## DAY 3 // GOD REVEALS HIMSELF

*I saw also the Lord... Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone. Isaiah 6:1, 5*

I often wonder how so many people can live with a continuing hope that they will in some way be able to commune with God through their intellectual capacities. When will they realize that if they could possibly “discover” God they realize that with the intellect, they would be equal to God?

Isaiah is a dramatic example of God’s revelation of Himself to mankind. Isaiah could have tried for a million years to reach God by means of his intellect. But brainpower is not the means by which we find God!

Brethren, it is true that all of us would still be far from God if He had not graciously and in love revealed Himself to us. In the space of a short second of time, the Lord who loves us can reveal Himself to the willing spirit of a man or woman. It is only then that an Isaiah, or any one of us, can say with humble assurance, “I know Him!”

A committed Christian, then, should have upon him an element that is beyond psychology—beyond all natural laws and into spiritual laws!

*Lord, thank You for what we can know about You through the various encounters we read in the Bible. Lord, I want to be prepared in my heart to hear Your voice when You speak.*

~Mornings with Tozer

“ **All of us would still be far from God if He had not graciously and in love revealed Himself to us.**

## DAY 4 // THE PRESENCE OF GOD

*The righteous shall give thanks... the upright shall dwell in thy presence. Psalm 140:13*

The spiritual giants of old were those who at some time became acutely conscious of the presence of God. They maintained that consciousness for the rest of their lives.

How otherwise can the saints and prophets be explained? How otherwise can we account for the amazing power for good they have exercised over countless generations?

**“ We do God more honor in believing what He has said about Himself and coming boldly to His throne of grace than by hiding in a self-conscious humility!**

Is it not that indeed they had become friends of God? Is it not that they walked in conscious communion with the real Presence and addressed their prayers to God with the artless conviction that they were truly addressing Someone actually there?

Let me say it again, for certainly it is no secret: We do God more honor in believ-

ing what He has said about Himself and coming boldly to His throne of grace than by hiding in a self-conscious humility!

Those unlikely men chosen by our Lord as His closest disciples might well have hesitated to claim friendship with Christ. But Jesus said to them, “You are my friends!”

*Lord, my prayer this morning is that I will become “acutely conscious of the presence of God.”*

~Mornings with Tozer

## DAY 5 // LONGING AND PINING FOR GOD

*But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. John 4:14*

Almost every day of my life I am praying that “a jubilant pining and longing for God” might come back on the evangelical churches everywhere!

We do not need to have our doctrine straightened out; we are as orthodox as the Pharisees of old. But this longing for God that brings spiritual torrents and whirlwinds of seeking and self-denial—this is almost gone from our midst.

I believe that God wants us to long for Him with the longing that will become homesickness, that will become a wound to our spirits, to keep us always moving toward Him; always finding and always seeking; always having and always desiring!

So the earth becomes less and less valuable and heaven gets closer as we move into God and up into Christ.

Dare we bow our hearts and say, “Father, I have been an irresponsible, childish kind of Christian—more concerned with being happy than with being holy. O God, wound me with a sense of my own sinfulness. Wound me with compassion for the world, and wound me with love of Thee that will always keep me pursuing and always exploring and always seeking and finding!”

If you dare to pray that prayer sincerely and mean it before God, it could mean a turning point in your life. It could mean a great door of spiritual victory opened to you!

*Lord God, I pray that You would give me a longing to know and love You more and more each day.*

~Evenings with Tozer

**“ I believe that God wants us to long for Him with the longing that will become homesickness, that will become a wound to our spirits, to keep us always moving toward Him; always finding and always seeking; always having and always desiring!**

## DAY 6 // GOD WOULD STIR US

***Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness. Matthew 5:6***

There is no way that any of us can talk ourselves into getting a “longing for God.” Spiritual desire and hunger must come from God Himself! It cannot be whipped up.

As a grown boy, I tried selling peanuts, popcorn, chewing gum, candy and books on the old Vicksburg and Pacific railroad. I did not sell enough to become any great success, but I recall that we often tried to stir up some desire for our wares among the passengers. We would go through the coaches and give each person

“ ***No one but God through His Spirit is able to stir up spiritual desire among us.*** ”

a few salted peanuts. No one seemed to want to buy on the first trip through, but when we came back, nearly everyone who had tasted was ready to buy. This was a common trick on the trains.

But it is a different story when we consider the spiritual life. No one but God

through His Spirit is able to stir up spiritual desire among us. Those who have accepted a common state of spiritual living and have no deep desire for Him will never be stirred by human means.

*Lord, Your Word says, “Taste and see that the LORD is good” (Psalm 34:8). I desire to grow closer to You, Lord. I don’t want to merely sustain a distant relationship with an unknowable God.*

~Mornings with Tozer

## DAY 7 // THE GOAL OF ALL CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

***Give ear to my words, O Lord, consider my meditation. For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness; neither shall evil dwell with thee. Psalm 5:1, 4***

Among Christians of all ages and of varying shades of doctrinal emphasis there has been fairly full agreement on one thing: they all believed that it was important that the Christian with serious spiritual aspirations should learn to meditate long and often on God!

Let a Christian insist upon rising above the poor average of current religious experience and he will soon come up against the need to know God Himself as the ultimate goal of all Christian doctrine.

Let him seek to explore the sacred wonders of the Triune Godhead and he will discover that sustained and intelligently directed meditation on the Person of God is imperative. To know God well he must think on Him unceasingly. Nothing that man has discovered about himself or God has revealed any shortcut to pure spirituality. It is still free, but tremendously costly!

Of course this presupposes at least a fair amount of sound theological knowledge. To seek God apart from His own self-disclosure in the inspired Scriptures is not only futile but dangerous. There must be also a knowledge of and complete trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Redeemer.

Christ is not one of many ways to approach God, nor is He the best of several ways; He is the only way, “the way, the truth and the life.”

To believe otherwise is to be something less than a Christian!

*God, enlighten my mind to understand the ways in which You have revealed yourself in Your Word, and help me to cling to You and Your truth.*

~Evenings with Tozer

“ ***To seek God apart from His own self-disclosure in the inspired Scriptures is not only futile but dangerous.*** ”

# EXPERIENCING GOD IN CHRIST

## WEEK TWO

### DAY 8 // KNOWING GOD IN CHRIST

***Thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ. 2 Corinthians 2:14***

Certainly not all of the mystery of the Godhead can be known by man—but just as certainly, all that men can know of God in this life is revealed in Jesus Christ!

When the Apostle Paul said with yearning, “That I may know Him,” he was not speaking of intellectual knowledge. Paul was speaking of the reality of an experience of knowing God personally and consciously, spirit touching spirit and heart touching heart.

We know that people spend a lot of time talking about a deeper Christian life—but few seem to want to know and love God for Himself.

The precious fact is that God is the deeper life! Jesus Christ Himself is the deeper life, and as I plunge on into the knowledge of the triune God, my heart moves on into the blessedness of His fellowship. This means that there is less of me and more of God—thus my spiritual life deepens and I am strengthened in the knowledge of His will!

“***Jesus Christ Himself is the deeper life, and as I plunge on into the knowledge of the triune God, my heart moves on into the blessedness of His fellowship.***”

*Dear Lord, throughout this day, may there be more and more of You and less and less of me.*

*~Mornings with Tozer*

## DAY 9 // UNITED WITH CHRIST

*We are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. 1 John 5:20*

The Spirit of God has impelled me to preach and write much about the believer's conscious union with Christ—a union that must be felt and experienced. I will never be through talking about the union of the soul with the Savior, the conscious union of the believer's heart with Jesus.

“ *From God's perspective there are qualities in the Divine Being that can only be known by the heart; never by the intellect!*”

Remember, I am not talking about a “theological union” only. I am speaking also of a conscious union, a union that is felt and experienced.

I have never been ashamed to tell my congregations that I believe in feelings. I surely believe in what Jonathan Edwards termed “religious affections.” That is man's perspective.

I am aware also that from God's perspective there are qualities in the Divine Being that can only be known by the heart; never by the intellect!

Long ago John wrote: “Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us” (1 John 3:16). So it is best for us to confess that as humans we have difficulty in understanding what God has said when He says that He loves us!

*Heavenly Father, help me to be conscious of Your presence in my life today. And I pray that others will see You through me.*

~Mornings with Tozer

## DAY 10 // A BIBLE FACT

*Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me. Acts 27:25*

The Bible assumes as a self-evident fact that men can know God with at least the same degree of immediacy as they know any other person or thing that comes within the field of their experience.

The same terms are used to express the knowledge of God as are used to express knowledge of physical things:

“O TASTE and see that the Lord is good.”

“All thy garments SMELL of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia.”

“My sheep HEAR my voice.”

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall SEE God.”

These are but four of countless such passages from the Word of God. And more important than any proof text is the fact that the whole import of the Scripture is toward this belief.

We apprehend the physical world by exercising the faculties given us for the purpose, and we possess spiritual faculties by means of which we can know God and the spiritual world if we will obey the Spirit's urge and begin to use them.

That a saving work must first be done in the heart is taken for granted here.

The spiritual faculties of the unregenerate man lie asleep in his nature; they may be quickened to active life again by the operation of the Holy Spirit in regeneration!

*O Lord, I pray today that you would enlighten my eyes to see You for who You are. Make my spirit sensitive to Your Spirit, and give me new life this day.*

~Evenings with Tozer

“ *Men can know God with at least the same degree of immediacy as they know any other person or thing that comes within the field of their experience.*”

## DAY 11 // OUR RICHEST TREASURE

*... Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount:...  
Behold, I have set the land before you: go in and  
possess the land.... Deuteronomy 1:6, 8*

Large numbers of supposedly sound Christian believers know nothing at all about personal communion with God; and there lies one of the greatest weaknesses of present-day Christianity!

The experiential knowledge of God is eternal life (John 17:3), and increased knowledge results in a correspondingly larger and fuller life. So rich a treasure is this inward knowledge of God that every other treasure is as nothing compared with it!

**“ To know God it is necessary that we be like God to some degree, for things wholly dissimilar cannot agree and beings wholly unlike can never have communion with each other.**

We may count all things of no value and sacrifice them freely if we may thereby gain a more perfect knowledge of God through Jesus Christ our Lord. This was Paul's testimony (Phil. 3:7-14) and it has been the testimony of all great Christian souls who have followed Christ from Paul's day to ours.

To know God it is necessary that we be like God to some degree, for things wholly dissimilar cannot agree and beings wholly unlike can never have communion with each other. It is necessary therefore that we use every means of grace to bring our souls into harmony with the character of God.

As we move farther up into the knowledge of Christ we open new areas of our beings to attack, but what of it? Remember that spiritual complacency is more deadly than anything the devil can bring against us in our upward struggle. If we sit still to escape temptation, then we are being tempted worse than before and gaining nothing by it.

*I pray that you, gracious and loving Father, would draw me out of my complacency this day and conform me to the image of Your Son, that I may know and love you more and more.*

~Evenings with Tozer

## DAY 12 // TRUE CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE

*Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father...  
and Moses hid his face, for he was afraid  
to look upon God. Exodus 3:6*

True Christian experience must always include a genuine encounter with God. Without this, religion is but a shadow, a reflection of reality, a cheap copy of the original once enjoyed by someone else of whom we have heard.

It cannot but be a major tragedy in the life of any man to live in a church from childhood to old age and know nothing more real than some synthetic god compounded of theology and logic, but having no eyes to see, nor ears to hear, and no heart to love.

The spiritual giants of old were men who at some time became acutely conscious of the real Presence of God and maintained that consciousness for the rest of their lives.

The first encounter may have been one of terror, as when a "horror of great darkness" fell upon Abram, or as when Moses at the bush hid his face because he was afraid to look upon God. Usually this fear soon lost its content of terror and changed after a while to delightful awe, to level off finally into a reverent sense of complete nearness to God. The essential point is this: these were men who experienced God!

*Lord, make me ever conscious of Your presence in my life. I want to encounter you afresh today and grow in my love for You.*

~Evenings with Tozer

**“ True Christian experience must always include a genuine encounter with God. Without this, religion is but a shadow, a reflection of reality, a cheap copy of the original once enjoyed by someone else of whom we have heard.**

## DAY 13 // ENCOUNTERING GOD BRINGS WONDER AND AWE

*And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, fear not; I am the first and the last. Revelation 1:17*

There is a point in true worship where the mind may cease to understand and goes over to a kind of delightful astonishment—probably to what Carlyle described as “transcendent wonder,” a degree of wonder without limit and beyond expression!

That kind of worship is found throughout the Bible (though it is only fair to say that the lesser degrees of worship are found there also).

“*It is always true that an encounter with God brings wonderment and awe!*”

Abraham fell on his face in holy wonderment as God spoke to him. Moses hid his face before the presence of God in the burning bush. Paul could hardly tell whether he was in or out of the body when he was allowed to see the unspeakable glories of the third

heaven. When John saw Jesus walking among His churches, he fell at His feet as dead.

These were in unusual circumstances—but the spiritual content of the experiences is unchanging and is found alike wherever true believers are found. It is always true that an encounter with God brings wonderment and awe!

The pages of Christian biography are sweet with the testimonies of enraptured worshipers who met God in intimate experience and could find no words to express all they felt and saw and heard!

Christian hymnody takes us where the efforts of common prose break down, and brings the wings of poetic feeling to the aid of the wondering saint. Open an old hymnal and turn to the sections on worship and the divine perfections and you will see the part that wonder has played in worship through the centuries.

*Lord God, I recognize that you are awesome and wonderful. There is none like You. Ever fill me with awe and wonder, that I may glorify Your name.*

~Evenings with Tozer

## DAY 14 // OUR CHIEF JOY AND DELIGHT

*Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous; and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.*

Psalm 32:11

I must agree with the psalmist, even in our modern day, that the joy of the Lord is still the strength of His people. I do believe that the sad world around us is attracted to spiritual sunshine—the genuine thing, that is!

Some churches train their greeters and ushers to smile, showing as many teeth as possible. But I can sense that kind of display—and when I am greeted by a man who is smiling because he has been trained to smile, I know I am shaking the flipper of a trained seal!

But when the warmth and delight and joy of the Holy Spirit are in a congregation and the folks are just spontaneously joyful and unable to hide the happy grin, the result is a wonderful influence upon others. Conversely, the reason we have to search for so many things to cheer us up is the fact that we are not really joyful and contentedly happy within!

I admit that we live in a gloomy world and that international affairs, nuclear rumors and threats, earthquakes and riots cause people to shake their heads in despair and say, “What’s the use?”

But we are Christians, and Christians have every right to be the happiest people in the world! We do not have to look to other sources—for we look to the Word of God and discover how we can know the faithful God above and draw from His resources.

Why should the children of the King hang their heads and tote their own burdens, missing the mark about Christian victory? All this time the Holy Spirit has been wanting to make Jesus Christ our chief joy and delight!

*O Heavenly Father, may the joy of the Lord be my strength today. Fill me all the fruits of Your Holy Spirit, that everyone I encounter may taste and see how good You are.*

~Evenings with Tozer

“*We are Christians, and Christians have every right to be the happiest people in the world! We do not have to look to other sources—for we look to the Word of God and discover how we can know the faithful God above and draw from His resources.*”

# BEING WITH GOD

## WEEK THREE

### DAY 15 // YOUR DEVOTIONAL LIFE

***Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.***

**Ephesians 6:10**

Too many of us object, perhaps unconsciously, to the rather evident fact that the maintenance of the devotional mood is indispensable to success in the Christian life.

And what is the devotional mood?

It is nothing else than constant awareness of God's enfolding presence, the holding of inward conversations with Christ and private worship of God in spirit and in truth!

“ ***And what is the devotional mood? It is nothing else than constant awareness of God's enfolding presence, the holding of inward conversations with Christ and private worship of God in spirit and in truth!*** ”

To establish our hearts in the devotional mood, we must abide in Christ, walk in the Spirit, pray without ceasing and meditate in the Word of God day and night. Of course, this implies separation from the world and obedience to the will of God, as we are able to understand it.

No matter how we may argue, true holiness and spiritual power are not qualities that can be once received and thereafter

forgotten, as one might wind a clock or take a vitamin pill. Every advance in the spiritual life must be made against the determined resistance of the world, the flesh, and the devil!

*Dear Lord, thank You for watching over me and my loved ones last night. I look forward to spending time with You throughout the course of this day.*

*~Mornings with Tozer*

## DAY 16 // LOVING GOD ONLY

*And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. Matthew 24:12*

The first and greatest commandment is to love God with every power of our entire being. Where love like that exists, there can be no place for a second object.

Yet popular Christianity has as one of its most effective talking points the idea that God exists to help people to get ahead in this world! The God of the poor has become the God of an affluent society. We hear that Christ no longer refuses to be a judge or a divider between money-hungry brothers. He can now be persuaded to assist the brother that has accepted Him to get the better of the brother who has not!

**“ *Whoever seeks God as a means toward desired ends will not find God. God will not be one of many treasures.* ”**

Whoever seeks God as a means toward desired ends will not find God. God will not be one of many treasures. His mercy and grace are infinite and His patient understanding is beyond measure, but He will not aid men in selfish striving after personal gain. If we love God as much as we should, surely we cannot dream of a loved object beyond Him which He might help us to obtain!

*Lord, show me what it means to love You as You commanded—with all my heart, soul, strength, and mind (see Luke 10:27).*

*~Mornings with Tozer*

## DAY 17 // BEGIN WITH GOD

*Not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts. 1 Thessalonians 2:4*

I am really sad for the great throngs of men and women who have never known the satisfaction of believing what God says about all of the good things He has created—and everything having its purpose!

This is an area in which you must begin with God. Then you begin to understand everything in its proper context. All things fit into shape and form when you begin with God!

In Christian circles, there is now an undue deference to intellectual knowledge and accomplishment. I insist that it ought to be balanced out. We appreciate the efforts and hours that go into academic progress, but we must always keep God's wisdom and God's admonitions in mind.

Search and study as we will and we discover that we have only learned fragments of truth. On the other hand, the newest Christian believer has already learned many marvelous things at the center of truth. He has met and knows God!

That is the primary issue, my brother and sister. That is why we earnestly invite men and women to become converted, taking Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord!

*Lord, I am privileged to know You—the beginning and the end of everything in this world. Allow me to share Your truth with someone who needs to hear it today.*

*~Mornings with Tozer*

**“ *You must begin with God. Then you begin to understand everything in its proper context. All things fit into shape and form when you begin with God!* ”**

## DAY 18 // GIVE TIME TO GOD

*In his law doth he meditate day and night. Psalm 1:2*

I have often wished that there were some way to bring modern Christians into a deeper spiritual life painlessly by short, easy lessons; but such wishes are vain. No shortcut exists!

God has not bowed to our nervous haste nor embraced the methods of our machine age. It is well that we accept the hard truth now: The man who would know God must give time to Him!

“ *The man who would know God must give time to Him!* ”

He must count no time wasted which is spent in the cultivation of His acquaintance.

He must give himself to meditation and prayer hours on end. So did the saints of old, the glorious company of the apostles, the goodly fellowship of the prophets and the believing members of the holy Church in all generations.

And so must we if we would follow in their train!

May not the inadequacy of much of our spiritual experience be traced back to our habit of skipping through the corridors of the kingdom like little children through the marketplace, chattering about everything but pausing to learn the true value of nothing?

*Dear Lord, help me order my time so that I may get to know You and Your Word more intimately.*

*~Mornings with Tozer*

## DAY 19 // BE STILL AND KNOW

*Be still, and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10*

Prayer among evangelical Christians is always in danger of degenerating into a glorified “gold rush.” Almost every book on prayer deals mainly with the “get” element. How to get things we want from God occupies most of our space.

Christians should never forget that the highest kind of prayer is never the making of requests.

Prayer at its holiest moment is the entering into God to a place of such blessed union as makes miracles seem tame and remarkable answers to prayer appear something very far short of wonderful, by comparison.

We should be aware that there is a kind of school where the soul must go to learn its best eternal lessons. It is the school of silence. “Be still and know,” said the psalmist (46:10).

It might well be a revelation to some Christians if they were to get completely quiet for a time—a time to listen in the silence for the deep voice of the Eternal God!

*Heavenly Father, I desire my prayer time to be more than a “wish list.” Help me to spend more time listening for Your voice than making personal requests.*

“ *Prayer at its holiest moment is the entering into God to a place of such blessed union as makes miracles seem tame and remarkable answers to prayer appear something very far short of wonderful, by comparison.* ”

*~Mornings with Tozer*

## DAY 20 // GOD-HUNGRY SOULS

***But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness.***

**1 Corinthians 1:23**

The Greek philosopher Pythagoras divided men into three classes: 1. Seekers after knowledge; 2. Seekers after honor; 3. Seekers after gain.

I wonder why he failed to notice two other classes: those who are not seeking anything and those who are seekers after God.

Let us add them to his list:

4. Seekers after nothing. These are the human vegetables who live by their glands and their instincts. I refer to the millions of normal persons who have allowed their magnificent intellectual equipment to wither away from lack of exercise. Their reading matter is the sports page and the comic section; their music is whatever is popular and handy—and loud!

**“ Thank the Lord for seekers after God, and their destiny lies in the hand of the One who gave His only begotten Son to die for the life of the world!**

5. Seekers after God. I am thinking of men and women who are God-hungry souls though their numbers may not be large. By nature they are no better than the rest of mankind, and by practice they have sometimes been worse. The one sign of their divine election is their insatiable thirst after the Source of their being. Thank the Lord for seekers after God, and their destiny lies in the hand of the One who gave His only begotten Son to die for the life of the world!

*Dear Lord, I want to be known among my family and friends as a God-seeker. My destiny belongs to You, O Lord.*

*~Mornings with Tozer*

## DAY 21 // LEARN TO LOVE GOD FOR HIMSELF ALONE

***We love him, because he first loved us.*** 1 John 4:19

The phrase, “the love of God,” when used by Christians almost always refers to God’s love for us. We must remember that it can also mean our love for God!

The first and great commandment is that we should love God with all the power of our total personality. Though all love originates in God and is for that reason God’s own love, yet we are permitted to catch and reflect back that love in such manner that it becomes our love indeed!

The Christian’s love for God has by some religious thinkers been divided into two kinds, the love of gratitude and the love of excellence. But we must carry our love to God further than love of gratitude and love of excellence.

There is a place in the religious experience where we love God for Himself alone, with never a thought of His benefits. There is, in the higher type of love, a supra-rational element that cannot and does not attempt to give reasons for its existence—it only whispers, “I love!”

In the perfection of love, the heart does not reason from admiration to affection, but quickly rises to the height of blind adoration where reason is suspended and the heart worships in unreasoning blessedness. It can only exclaim, “Holy, holy, holy,” while scarcely knowing what it means.

If this should all seem too mystical, too unreal, we offer no proof. But some will read and recognize the description of the sunlit peaks where they have been for at least brief periods and to which they long often to return. And such will need no proof!

*Lord, thank you for the immeasurable amount of love You have lavished upon me. I pray this day that you would so fill me with Your love that I would love You, and for Your own sake, without wavering.*

*~Evenings with Tozer*

**“ Though all love originates in God and is for that reason God’s own love, yet we are permitted to catch and reflect back that love in such manner that it becomes our love indeed!**

# THE ULTIMATE GOAL

## WEEK FOUR

### DAY 22 // WHAT REALLY MATTERS

*For what hath man of all his labour... wherein he hath laboured under the sun? Ecclesiastes 2:22*

It is all but impossible these days to get people to pay any attention to things that really matter. The broad cynic in our modern civilization is likely to ask: "What really matters, after all?"

It is our personal relationship to God that really matters!

That takes priority over everything else, for no man can afford to live or die under the frowning displeasure of God. Yet,

name one modern device that can save him from it. Where can a man find security? Can philosophy help him? or psychology? or science? or atoms or wonder drugs or vitamins?

Only Christ can help him, and His aid is as old as man's sin and man's need.

A few other things matter to be sure. We must trust Christ completely. We must carry our cross daily.

We must love God and our fellow men. We must fulfill our commission as ambassadors of Christ among men. We must grow in grace and in the knowledge of God and come at last to our end like a ripe shock of corn at harvest time.

These are the things that really matter!

*Lord, the world tells me that fitness and finances are the measures for success and happiness. But I know in my heart that my personal relationship with You is the one thing in my life that really matters!*

~Mornings with Tozer

“ **The broad cynic in our modern civilization is likely to ask: “What really matters, after all?” It is our personal relationship to God that really matters!** ”

## DAY 23 // ACTIVITY IS NOT ENOUGH

*And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart...  
and rest a while. Mark 6:31*

Those who try to give warnings to the Christian church are never very popular. Still, I must voice the caution that our craze for “activity” brings very few enriching benefits into our Christian circles. Look into the churches, and you will find groups of half-saved, half-sanctified, carnal people who know more about social niceties than they do about the New Testament.

“ **God calls us back—back to the simplicity of the faith; back to the simplicity of Jesus Christ and His unchanging Person!**

It is a fact that many of our church folks are activists—engaged in many religious journeys—but they do not seem to move up any closer to Jesus in heart and in spirit.

This modern religious emphasis on activity reminds me of the Japanese mice I have seen in the pet store windows. They are called waltzing mice—but they do not waltz. They just run continually!

Many in our churches hope to have a part in “something big and exciting.” But God calls us back—back to the simplicity of the faith; back to the simplicity of Jesus Christ and His unchanging Person!

*Dear Lord, help me to find some quiet moments in the midst of today's schedule to focus my thoughts on Your goodness and mercy.*

*~Mornings with Tozer*

## DAY 24 // THE NATURE OF TRUE WORSHIP

*Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him.... Revelation 3:20*

One of the most liberating declarations in the New Testament is this: “The true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:23, 24). Here the nature of worship is shown to be wholly spiritual. True religion is removed from diet and days, from garments and ceremonies, and placed where it belongs—in the union of the spirit of man with the Spirit of God!

From man's standpoint, the most tragic loss suffered in the Fall was the vacating of his innermost being by the Spirit of God. At the far-in hidden center of man's being is a bush fitted to be the dwelling place of the Triune God. There God planned to rest and glow with moral and spiritual fire. Man by his sin forfeited this indescribably wonderful privilege and must now dwell there alone.

“ **At the far-in hidden center of man's being is a bush fitted to be the dwelling place of the Triune God. There God planned to rest and glow with moral and spiritual fire.**

For so intimately private is that place that no creature can intrude; no one can enter but Christ, and He will enter only by the invitation of faith! “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Rev. 3:20).

*Lord, I confess that I wonder away from You from time to time. Keep me close to You, so that I may worship You and honor You.*

*~Evenings with Tozer*

## DAY 25 // EVERYDAY WORSHIP

*Their heart is far from me... in vain they do worship me. Matthew 15:8-9*

It is my experience that the totality of our Christian lives—our entire attitude as persons—must be towards the worship of God!

If you do not know the presence of God in your office, your factory, your home, then God is not in the church you attend either!

I became a Christian when I was a young man working in a tire factory in Akron, Ohio. I remember my work there—but I remember my worship there too! I had plenty of worshipful tears in my eyes. No one ever asked me about them, but I would not have hesitated to explain them.

“ **The totality of our Christian lives—our entire attitude as persons—must be towards the worship of God!**

You can learn to use certain skills until they are automatic. I became so skillful that I could do my work and then I could worship God even while my hands were busy.

If the love of God is in us and the Spirit of God is

breathing praise within us, all the musical instruments in heaven are suddenly playing in full support! Even our thoughts become a sanctuary in which God can dwell.

*Dear Lord, I pray that Your Spirit will so fill me today that my heart and mind will overflow in praise to You.*

*~Mornings with Tozer*

## DAY 26 // WE HAVE IT ALL

*Seek ye first the kingdom... all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33*

How much time have you spent in your Christian life meditating on the plain instruction from our Savior?—“Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

The God who has revealed Himself to needy men and women wants us to know that when we have Him, we have everything—we have all the rest!

Any of us who have experienced a life and ministry of faith can tell how the Lord has met our needs—even for food and the essentials of life.

Brethren, we ought to learn, and learn it soon, that it is much better to have God first and have God Himself, even if we have only a thin dime, than to have all the riches and all the influence in this world and not have God with it!

Let us go on to know Him and to love Him more dearly, not for His gifts and benefits, but for the pure joy of His presence. Thus we will fulfill the purpose for which He created us and redeemed us!

*Dear Lord, help me make the transition from wanting more and more “things” to being satisfied—and overjoyed—with only Your presence in my life.*

*~Mornings with Tozer*

“ **It is much better to have God first and have God Himself, even if we have only a thin dime, than to have all the riches and all the influence in this world and not have God with it!**

## DAY 27 // HOW DO WE KNOW HIM?

*I know whom I have believed. 2 Timothy 1:12*

I must ask this question in the context of today's modern Christianity: "Is it not true that for most of us who call ourselves Christians there is no real experience?"

We have substituted theological ideas for an arresting encounter; we are full of religious notions, but our great weakness is that for our hearts there is no one there!

“ **True Christian experience must always include a genuine encounter with God. Without this, religion is but a shadow, a reflection of reality, a cheap copy of an original once enjoyed by someone else of whom we have heard.**

Whatever else it embraces, true Christian experience must always include a genuine encounter with God. Without this, religion is but a shadow, a reflection of reality, a cheap copy of an original once enjoyed by someone else of whom we have heard.

It cannot but be a major tragedy in the life of any man or woman to live in a church from childhood to old age and know nothing more real than some synthetic god compounded of

theology and logic, but having no eyes to see, no ears to hear—and no heart to love!

*O Lord, I pray for the people in churches who may think they are Christians because they were raised in a religious environment. What a tragedy it would be if these men and women are not truly saved. Lord, I pray for each one, that they will receive Christ into their hearts.*

~Mornings with Tozer

## DAY 28 // LET NOTHING KEEP US FROM COMMUNION WITH GOD

*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. Matthew 24:35*

We being what we are and all things else being what they are, the most important and profitable study any of us can engage in is without question the study of theology.

That theology probably receives less attention than any other subject tells us nothing about its importance or lack of it. It indicates, rather, that men are still hiding from the presence of God among the trees of the garden and feel acutely uncomfortable when the matter of their relation to God is brought up!

They sense their deep alienation from God and only manage to live at peace with themselves by forgetting that they are not at peace with God.

It is precisely because God IS, and because man is made in His image and is accountable to Him, that theology is so critically important. Christian revelation alone has the answer to life's unanswered questions about God and human destiny.

To let these authoritative answers lie neglected while we search everywhere else for answers and find none is, it seems to me, nothing less than folly!

Whatever keeps me from the Bible is my enemy, however harmless it may appear to me. Whatever engages my attention when I should be meditating on God and things eternal does injury to my soul. Let the cares of life crowd out the Scriptures from my mind and I have suffered loss where I can least afford it. The secret of life is theological and the key to heaven, as well!

*God, I realize that I was made to be at peace with You and to have fellowship with You. Let nothing, not even my sinful self, keep me from constantly pursuing communion with You.*

~Evenings with Tozer

“ **It is precisely because God IS, and because man is made in His image and is accountable to Him, that theology is so critically important. Christian revelation alone has the answer to life's unanswered questions about God and human destiny.**

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