

## Pursuit of God - A.W. Tozer

### Tozer Chapter One -- Following Hard after God

- God is always previous.
- The number one priority of a Kingdom Man is to cultivate a vibrant relationship with God. You can't give away something you do not possess.
- God desires our Holy intention to want him first. Even if we don't always have God is our hearts most fervent desire, do we want to? Pray to the Holy Spirit to fan this intention into an all-consuming fire leading the affections of our hearts.
- God is a person and we can cultivate a relationship with him (All 3 Persons of the Trinity) just like any other member of the group. A Man of the Kingdom will know God actually not just by here say but through a daily association with the Triune God.

#### Key Questions:

- Do you desire to know God as the chief desire of your heart or do you really desire the greater benefits of his association?
- In what ways can you tangibly follow after God? What can you do tomorrow?
- "What are the God-And's" in your life?
- Who is the primary audience of your life? (God or Man)

### Tozer Chapter Two -- The Blessedness of Possessing Nothing

- In the deep heart of man, there is a throne that is designed to house God and God alone. We have allowed the corrupting influence of things to take his place in our hearts. Often times, these things can even be the good gifts of God himself. Satan, who cannot come up with anything original, merely perverts God's good gifts and makes them the ultimate focus of our hearts. God's gifts or blessings are meant to point to the gift giver, not to become the ultimate thing themselves. If we are not careful, God's gifts can take his place in the seat of our hearts. This is the tyranny of things in our life. The biblical definition of heart is the seat of our affection.

#### Key Questions:

- How do you see the Tyranny of things playing out in our culture?
- What is growing into the deep roots of your hearts?
- Are there any of God's good gifts that are a danger to you?
- What are your Isaac's?
- What rewards in life are you chasing after?
- How do you plan to implement your own School of renunciation?

### Tozer Chapter Three - Removing the Veil.

- In Israel there was a veil that protected Israel from the Holy of Holies. God dwelt in the temple or the tabernacle and this veil separated God from his people. When Christ was crucified the veil was pierced and now the veil is around our hearts keeping God out and our idols in. Our veil is now woven by our self-life apart from God. God desires a close spiritual proximity without inner most self and we resist him at our great peril. God is outside of time and not locked within the space time continuum. All of our life is laid open before God, he is not surprised about anything you have done or will do. Do not hide from God, but run to him and render your veil; and increase your spiritual proximity to the Trinity?

#### Key Questions:

- What is your spiritual proximity to God right now on a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being the closest)?

- What is your spiritual veil made up of? What does your self-life look like?
- Tozer says the highest love of God is not intellectual, but spiritual. What does he mean? (Satan knows about God - Matthew 7)
- Are you cultivating a relationship with all three members of the Trinity? What does that look like?
- Have you asked God the dangerous prayer of ripping apart your veil that is separating you from his presence?

### Tozer Chapter Four -- Apprehending God.

- To some God is known by an inference deduced from evidence, others by here say and others know God as an ideal or state of perfection. But the true Christian, knows God as a personal acquaintance; a true friend of the heart. Tozer claims that we can know God by spiritual faculties that we should be putting to use a daily basis. Faculties such as the "eyes of the heart" and the "mind of Christ". He claims that we do not use these because we of our chronic unbelief. At the very heart of the Christian life is the belief in and the practice of embracing God's unseen world. Lead the group in grappling with these truths and then turn to Matthew 7:21-23.

#### **Key Questions:**

- What are a few biblical examples of people interacting with the unseen realm (Stephen)?
- How should we practice the unseen Realm? How often do you think of the unseen realm?
- What disciplines might we deploy this week to help "tune" our lives to the Supra reality of God?
- What do you think Jesus is doing right now?
- What does Jesus look like in your mind's eye right now? Give examples.
- How can we use our conversation to encourage each other in seeing both the physical and the unseen realm?

### Tozer Chapter Five -- The Universal Presence

- God is both transcendent and immanent in all of creation. Tozer brings us back to our spiritual proximity to God. Even if we think we are running from God, he is always with us and in front of us. In fact, we are living our entire life in front of the high heavenly court with the King always with us. Does this thought comfort you or cause you to tremble in fear? Probably both! Tozer encourages to dramatically increase our spiritual receptivity in our day to day walk. He describes this receptivity as a muscle that can be exercised and grown. God is the vibrant and prime reality of all of creation and he is using all of creation to create a relationship with you!

#### **Key Questions:**

- Think about your day yesterday; what does the thought of God's universal presence bring to mind?
- What difference would it make in your life if held his presence consistently before your mind?
- How can we as a group increase our spiritual receptivity? How can we as a group increase our "doing something about it"?
- What disciplines might you deploy to increase your spiritual receptivity? Will you take action tomorrow?
- How is God trying to get people attention through the created order?
- How can we use God's universal presence in our conversations to bring his presence before others in our Personal Mission Field?
- Who have been the moral leaders in your life? How did they fulfill a few of the 5 roles of a moral leader?

### Tozer Chapter Six - The Speaking Voice

- Tozer continues to develop his theme God reaching out to his children; and in this chapter he discusses the idea that God is always speaking. The fundamental Foundation of the Biblical Worldview is that God is. God has spoken and he is still speaking today. We have the Bible as God's word, but through the word and all of creation; he is continually pouring out his word to us today. How is God speaking today? Well he is speaking through: The Natural Law, The Bible, The Holy Spirit, His Church and Creation. Tozer claims that modern man has trained his ears not to hear God's voice in our day to day lives. Are we too busy to hear this most important voice? Tozer encourages us to practice the discipline of solitude in our life in order to slow down and hear God's voice calling his wandering child back home.

#### **Key Questions:**

- How have you experienced God's speaking voice in your life? Give examples...
  - o When was the last time you felt or heard God tell you to do something?
- Is Satan using busyness as a front in his spiritual warfare in your life?
- How often have you practiced the discipline of solitude in your walk with God? Do you know anyone that practices the discipline of solitude?
- What would you have to give up in your life to hear God's Speaking Voice in your life every day?
- What's holding you back from hearing God's speaking voice in your life?

#### **Tozer Chapter Seven - The Gaze of Soul**

- Tozer discusses the nature of faith is believing in and chasing after the better promises of God. Now without faith we cannot please God and the very faith we have is received as a gift from the Father (Ephesians 2:8) We are to use this gift to look to Jesus who is the author and protector of our faith. (Hebrews 11 and 12). So, when we have Faith it is the gaze of the soul onto Christ. And a Kingdom man will be necessity put his faith into action. A Kingdom man is not a passive man, but a man that has set the course of his life as chasing after the better promises of God. Tozer encourages the man with a heart on fire for God to continuously focus his gaze upon Christ and the better promise of his presence. TM Moore has described this as the screen saver of our souls! A Kingdom will actively discipline his mind and heart to increase his focus on the unseen realm more and more as he pursues God each day of his life.

#### **Key Questions:**

- What are your favorite promises of God? (How large a list can your group come up with?)
- What is Jesus doing right now?
- When you think of Jesus what do you envision?
- What examples from scripture come to mind when you think about a practice of the Unseen Realm?
- What promises does the world use to tempt you?
- What promises does your mind retreat to during the quiet hours of your life? Where does your thinking go when you are alone?
- How is Satan trying to block your spiritual vision of Christ?
- How are you going to train your mind's eye on Jesus this week?

#### **Tozer Chapter Eight - Restoring the Creator/Creation Relationship.**

- Key Idea, when take the author of Creation out of Creation you are left with Chaos. This chapter is a direct assault on the modern concept that man self identifies his very nature. Our school systems are beginning to preach that all human sexuality and even race is now a self-identified proposition. Where does that leave the creator in respect to creation? Tozer's main claim in this chapter is that all of man's misery is a consequence of our sinful habit of disrupting the Creator-Creation order. The only conceivable source for a sustainable moral order is a fixed and unchanging author of morality. (Discuss the Poem The Second Coming). If our moral compass always points directly back to ourselves, then we are like a lost man in the

middle of the wilderness with a broken compass. One of the key moments in a Kingdom Man's life, is when he determines that he will exhale God and bring all of his life under the Lordship of Christ. At that moment, he steps out of the pull of the world system and experiences that exhilaration of the Holy Spirit animating his life. God wants your whole life, if you desire that he become the Lord of your life and pray such a prayer; he will take your Holy Intention and bring you home. But be careful, this is one of those dangerous prayers that God will take you up on your offer!

#### **Key Questions:**

- Tozer Claims that the foundation of all human misery is a radical dislocation of our relationship with God. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- How does our current culture view the "natural order" of things?
- What habits can we put in place to bring our lives into conformity with God's Law?
- Does your calendar and your checkbook provide evidence that Jesus is not only your savior but your Lord?
- How did you do on Tozer tests of Christian authenticity? (The Choice between God & Money etc)
- What part of your life do you need to bring under the Lordship of Jesus this week? Will you do it? Share with your accountability partner and ask them to hold you accountable.

#### **Tozer Chapter Nine - Meekness and Rest.**

- A key attribute of a Kingdom Man is his meek attitude in the world. Meekness is defined a strength under control. The Greek work picture was a roman war horse that was bridled and under the command of his rider. Tozer claims that if you want to really understand the world's value system, just invert the value system as described by the Lord is his Sermon on the Mount. Compare and contrast the two systems with your team. Jesus acknowledges the burden of life for us while we are in the world and he offers peace from that burden. The burdens that men carry can be filled with pride, pretense and artificiality. His path to experiencing the peace from these burdens in your life is paved with the discipline of meekness. One of the chief burdens of man is an excessive amount of pride. And the pride needs constant defending, building and a ton of maintenance. It is an exhausting task keeping a pride-filled image in place when you are a fallen sinner! (This topic really brings out the Question of Who is your audience in Life?). What a blessed relief the Lord offers when we come into his Kingdom and he removes our burden. (Pilgrim's Progress). The Meek man does not think less of himself; he just thinks of himself less often. The Kingdom realizes that on his own he is a weak and helpless, but when he is with the Lord he is now a Co-Heir of the entire universe. Not a bad place to be; so be at rest Kingdom Man and find your peace in the school of Meekness that is taught by our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **Key Questions:**

- How does your value system line up with the world's values?
- What areas in your life do you need to begin aligning with the values of the Sermon on the Mount?
- How would you best describe a meek man?
- How does our culture view the meek man?
- How does the New Testament describe a meek man? What Biblical examples come to your mind?
- How does the Bible describe the carnal man? How does the Bible describe the saved man?
- What promises of God can you lean on as you realize your true position in Christ?
- Are you vulnerable to the burden of pretense?
- Are you vulnerable to the burden of artificiality?
- What is our defense for pretense and artificiality?

#### **Tozer Chapter Ten - The Sacrament of Living.**

- Tozer examines the common mistake with Christendom to divide our lives in between the sacred and the secular. If the Kingdom Man tries to live his life under a divided construct his vitality will be sapped and his witness will be diluted. This is also the root cause of many of the hypocrisies in a Christian's life. The devil will seek to highlight and spotlight these hypocrisies whenever possible to those around and you. When you have been outed as an authentic Jesus freak the world is going to watching and searching for a weakness or a compromise to define you. Don't give the devil his due on this front! Satan cannot steal your salvation but he can steal your witness. The sacred secular divide is one of his favorite plays to take away your influence. One of the key roles of a moral leader is to Project a Kingly Vision of all of life. A Kingdom Man will expose this false choice and help those around him see all of their lives as a holy mission! Tozer claims this is very hard work and prayer has to be a key component of seeing all of our actions as a way to glorify God. A Kingdom Man leads his souls in prayer and he also leads those around him in lifting their life up as an offering to God. Tozer is not saying that everything is of equal importance, but all acts should be seen as acceptable and pleasing to our Lord.

**Key Questions:**

- How have you demonstrated your Kingdom values in your secular setting?
- Who do you know that has consistently lived an authentic Christian Life in the workplace?
- How could you attempt to see every act of your day tomorrow as an opportunity to glorify God?
- Too often this mental split has led to a misuse of our bodies? Why do you think this is so?
- How can your prayer life support a vision of seeing your entire life as a Sacramental offering to God?