

pursuit of god aw tozer

Pursuit of God is a profound theme that has resonated deeply within Christian thought, particularly as articulated by A.W. Tozer in his classic work, "The Pursuit of God." Tozer, a notable theologian and pastor, offers an insightful exploration into the nature of God and the believer's journey toward a deeper, more intimate relationship with the Divine. This article delves into Tozer's key concepts, his theological insights, and practical steps for individuals seeking to engage in this sacred pursuit.

Understanding A.W. Tozer's Perspective

A.W. Tozer (1897-1963) was an influential American Christian pastor, author, and theologian. He is best known for his writings that encourage believers to seek a more authentic relationship with God. Tozer's works often emphasize the importance of spiritual longing and the necessity of pursuing God above all else.

The Nature of God

Tozer begins his exploration by emphasizing the importance of understanding God's nature. He posits that our view of God shapes our entire spiritual experience. Some key points from his teachings include:

1. **God's Incomprehensibility:** Tozer asserts that while we can know God, He remains ultimately beyond human understanding. Our concepts of Him are often limited by our finite minds.
2. **God's Holiness:** Tozer emphasizes the holiness of God, which is the foundation of His other attributes. His holiness demands reverence and awe from His creation.
3. **God's Love:** While God is holy, Tozer also highlights His love. This duality forms the basis for a balanced understanding of the Divine character.

The Necessity of Pursuit

Tozer argues that the pursuit of God is not merely a suggestion for believers but an essential aspect of the Christian life. He outlines several reasons why this pursuit is vital:

- **Spiritual Growth:** Engaging with God leads to spiritual maturity. A stagnant faith often results from neglecting this pursuit.

- Intimacy with God: The closer one draws to God, the more profound the relationship becomes. This intimacy transforms how believers experience life and navigate challenges.
- Fulfillment: Tozer suggests that true fulfillment and satisfaction in life come from knowing and experiencing God, rather than from worldly pursuits.

Barriers to Pursuit

Despite the clear call to pursue God, Tozer acknowledges that various barriers can hinder this journey. He identifies several common obstacles:

Distractions of Modern Life

In an age dominated by technology and busyness, distractions can easily draw believers away from God. Tozer warns against:

- Materialism: The allure of wealth and possessions can overshadow the pursuit of God.
- Entertainment: Excessive focus on entertainment can lead to spiritual lethargy.
- Busyness: A packed schedule, while often seen as a virtue, can result in neglecting spiritual disciplines.

Spiritual Apathy

Tozer notes that spiritual apathy can be a significant barrier. This state of indifference can arise from:

- Complacency: A comfortable faith can lead to a lack of desire for deeper knowledge of God.
- Lack of Awareness: Not recognizing one's need for God can create a false sense of security.

Sin and Disobedience

Sin can create a barrier between individuals and God. Tozer articulates the necessity of repentance and alignment with God's will to restore the relationship. He emphasizes:

- Confession: Acknowledging sin is the first step toward healing and restoration.
- Obedience: Living in accordance with God's commands fosters a deeper communion with Him.

Steps to Pursue God

Tozer provides practical guidance for believers eager to embark on the pursuit of God. Here are some steps he encourages:

1. Cultivate a Hunger for God

Tozer emphasizes the importance of cultivating a deep desire for God. This hunger can be fostered through:

- Prayer: Engaging in earnest prayer transforms the heart and ignites a longing for God.
- Scripture Reading: The Word of God reveals His character and will, fostering a deeper desire for His presence.

2. Embrace Solitude and Silence

In a noisy world, Tozer advocates for moments of solitude and silence to connect with God. This practice allows believers to:

- Listen: Silence provides space to hear God's voice and discern His guidance.
- Reflect: Solitude encourages introspection, leading to greater self-awareness and understanding of God's call.

3. Seek Community

While the pursuit of God is personal, Tozer acknowledges the importance of community. Engaging with fellow believers can provide:

- Encouragement: A supportive community can inspire and motivate individuals in their spiritual journeys.
- Accountability: Relationships can offer the necessary accountability to pursue God faithfully.

4. Engage in Worship

Worship is a vital aspect of pursuing God, as it helps to align the heart with His. Tozer encourages:

- Corporate Worship: Gathering with others to worship enhances the communal aspect of faith.
- Personal Worship: Individual acts of worship, such as singing or meditating on God's attributes, deepen the believer's relationship with God.

5. Practice Obedience

Tozer stresses that true pursuit involves obedience to God's commands. This can manifest in:

- Daily Decisions: Choosing to live in accordance with God's will in everyday life.
- Service: Actively serving others as an expression of love for God and a demonstration of faith.

Conclusion

The pursuit of God as articulated by A.W. Tozer is an invitation to embark on a transformative journey. Tozer's insights illuminate the profound nature of God and the believer's need for a deep, personal relationship with Him. By understanding the barriers that can impede this pursuit and embracing practical steps to engage with God, believers can cultivate a vibrant and fulfilling spiritual life.

Ultimately, the pursuit of God is not merely an abstract idea; it is a dynamic and life-altering endeavor that leads to greater intimacy with the Creator, fulfilling the deepest longings of the human heart. As Tozer so eloquently reminds us, the pursuit is not just a journey but a destination—a continual coming home to the God who longs to be known.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'The Pursuit of God' by A.W. Tozer?

The main theme of 'The Pursuit of God' is the deep and personal relationship

between the believer and God, emphasizing the importance of seeking God earnestly and the transformative power of such a pursuit.

How does A.W. Tozer define the concept of 'pursuit' in his book?

Tozer defines 'pursuit' as an active and intentional seeking of God, which involves a longing for a deeper relationship, rather than a passive waiting for God's presence to be felt.

What does Tozer say about the necessity of faith in the pursuit of God?

Tozer emphasizes that faith is essential in the pursuit of God, as it is through faith that believers are able to seek God wholeheartedly and trust in His promises.

How does Tozer address the issue of distractions in our spiritual lives?

Tozer acknowledges that distractions, such as materialism and busyness, can hinder our pursuit of God, and he encourages readers to eliminate these distractions in order to focus fully on their relationship with God.

What role does prayer play in the pursuit of God according to Tozer?

Prayer is portrayed by Tozer as a vital component of the pursuit of God, serving as a means of communication, intimacy, and alignment with God's will.

What is Tozer's view on the importance of solitude in seeking God?

Tozer advocates for solitude as essential for spiritual growth, arguing that it allows individuals to reflect, listen to God, and cultivate a deeper understanding of His presence.

How does A.W. Tozer describe the nature of God in 'The Pursuit of God'?

Tozer describes God as transcendent, holy, and deeply relational, emphasizing that understanding God's nature is crucial for a genuine pursuit of Him.

What practical steps does Tozer suggest for

individuals seeking to pursue God?

Tozer suggests practical steps such as regular prayer, meditation on Scripture, cultivating a heart of worship, and actively seeking moments of stillness and reflection.

How does Tozer differentiate between knowing about God and knowing God?

Tozer differentiates by stating that knowing about God involves intellectual assent, while knowing God is experiential and relational, requiring personal engagement and intimacy.

What impact has 'The Pursuit of God' had on contemporary Christian thought?

The book has significantly influenced contemporary Christian thought by inspiring believers to seek a more intimate relationship with God and challenging them to prioritize their spiritual lives amid cultural distractions.

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