

Christian Book Reports

Jim Hoffman



The Pursuit of God

- **If you went on all out search for God what would that look like in your life?**
- **If you found Him, what would that encounter look like?**





The Pursuit of God

- **Matthew 11:28** Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."
- **John 7:37** On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, "Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! 38 Anyone who believes in me may come and drink!"






The Pursuit of God

- **John 6:65** And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father." NKJV
- **John 6:37** "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out." NKJV
- **John 12:32** "But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." NIV





The Pursuit of God

- **A.W. Tozer’s “The Pursuit of God” is primarily a single theme book that asks this question – What will I do to draw close to God?**
 - **He seems to make no attempt to define our relationship with God beyond the need for intimacy.**
 - **In addition, one comes away from the book with the notion that intimacy with God is not a “one size fits all” matter.**
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The Pursuit of God

- **Psalms 42:1** As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? NIV
- **Psalms 145:18** The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. NIV
- **James 4:8** Come near to God, and he will come near to you. NIV





On Worship

- **“To great sections of the Church the art of worship has been lost entirely, and in its place has come that strange and foreign thing called the 'program'. This word has been borrowed from the stage and applied with sad wisdom to the type of public service which now passes for worship.” A. W. tozer**
- **Do you suppose the worship service has become so orchestrated that we have little room for God?**
- **How many times have I sat through the service (program) without really worshipping?**





On Scriptural Knowledge

- **“The Bible is not an end in itself, but a means to bring men to an intimate and satisfying knowledge of God, that they may enter into Him, that they may delight in His Presence, may taste and know the inner sweetness of the very God Himself in the core and center of their hearts.” A. W. Tozer**
- **While integral to the pursuit of God, we must be careful not to make knowledge of God the goal, instead of God himself.**
- **I once prided myself in what I knew of the scriptures, but have since been humbled by all that we are not told.**





On Fervency

- **“Others before me have gone much farther into these holy mysteries than I have done, but if my fire is not large it is yet real, and there may be those who can light their candle at its flame.” A. W. Tozer**
- **So I must ask myself – how large is my flame?**
- **Tozer had something we all want – a realness, a genuineness, to his faith. He senses his fire was small, but he knew without a doubt it was real.**






Pursuing God

- **“We pursue God because, and only because, He has first put an urge within us that spurs us to the pursuit.”
A.W. Tozer**
- **“The impulse to pursue God originates with God, but the out working of that impulse is our following hard after Him; and all the time we are pursuing Him we are already in His hand.” A.W. Tozer**
- **We can take no credit for coming to Jesus and we can take little credit for our continued pursuit.**






Our Role

- **So what role do we play?**
 - **We know that some draw very close and others of us not so much – just like we sometimes must wonder why we believed, there is a similar mystery regarding our proximity to Him.**
 - **After salvation, why is it that some dare to draw closer than others?**
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Our Response

- **“On our part there must be positive reciprocation if this secret drawing of God is to eventuate in an identifiable experience of the Divine.” A. W. Tozer**
 - **Positive reciprocation? How are we to respond to the drawings of God?**
 - **Are we to believe that God calls one and not another?**
 - **Are we willing to believe he calls one more fervently than another?**
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On Conversion

- **“The whole transaction of religious conversion has been made mechanical and spiritless. Faith may now be exercised without a jar to the moral life and without embarrassment to the Adamic ego. Christ may be `received' without creating any special love for Him in the soul of the receiver. The man is `saved,' but he is not hungry nor thirsty after God. In fact he is specifically taught to be satisfied and encouraged to be content with little.” A. W. Tozer**

 - **What do you think of the above quote?**
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On Proximity

- **“To have found God and still to pursue Him is the soul's paradox of love, scorned indeed by the too-easily-satisfied religionist, but justified in happy experience by the children of the burning heart.” A. W. Tozer**
- **There is no known limit with respect to how close we may come to God – our own proximity to him seems to be governed only by our willingness to press on.**
- **James 4:8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. NIV**






On Relationship

- “How tragic that we in this dark day have had our seeking done for us by our teachers. Everything is made to center upon the initial act of ‘accepting’ Christ (a term, incidentally, which is not found in the Bible) and we are not expected thereafter to crave any further revelation of God to our souls. We have been snared in the coils of a spurious logic which insists that if we have found Him we need no more seek Him.” A. W. Tozer
 - Could this be one of the primary reasons why the Western church is so weak?
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On Complacency

- **“Complacency is a deadly foe of all spiritual growth. Acute desire must be present or there will be no manifestation of Christ to His people. He waits to be wanted. Too bad that with many of us He waits so long, so very long, in vain.” A.W. Tozer**
 - **It is as though we have changed the chief end of man from “to serve God and glorify Him forever” to “accept Christ and avoid Hell forever.”**
 - **What is the result of our own complacency?**
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The Remedy

- **“If we would find God amid all the religious externals we must first determine to find Him, and then proceed in the way of simplicity. Now as always God discovers Himself to ‘babes’ and hides Himself in thick darkness from the wise and the prudent. We must simplify our approach to Him. We must strip down to essentials (and they will be found to be blessedly few). We must put away all effort to impress, and come with the guileless candor of childhood. If we do this, without doubt God will quickly respond.”
A.W. Tozer**
- **If we were to accept the challenge of the above to simplify our approach to God, what would change?**
- **Is this a clear case of “less is more”?**





The Remedy

- **“When the Lord divided Canaan among the tribes of Israel, Levi received no share of the land. God said to him simply, ‘I am thy part and thine inheritance,’ and by those words made him richer than all his brethren, richer than all the kings and rajas who have ever lived in the world. And there is a spiritual principle here, a principle still valid for every priest of the Most High God. The man who has God for his treasure has all things in One.” A.W. Tozer**
- **“God's gifts now take the place of God, and the whole course of nature is upset by the monstrous substitution.” A.W. Tozer**





Questions / Comments

