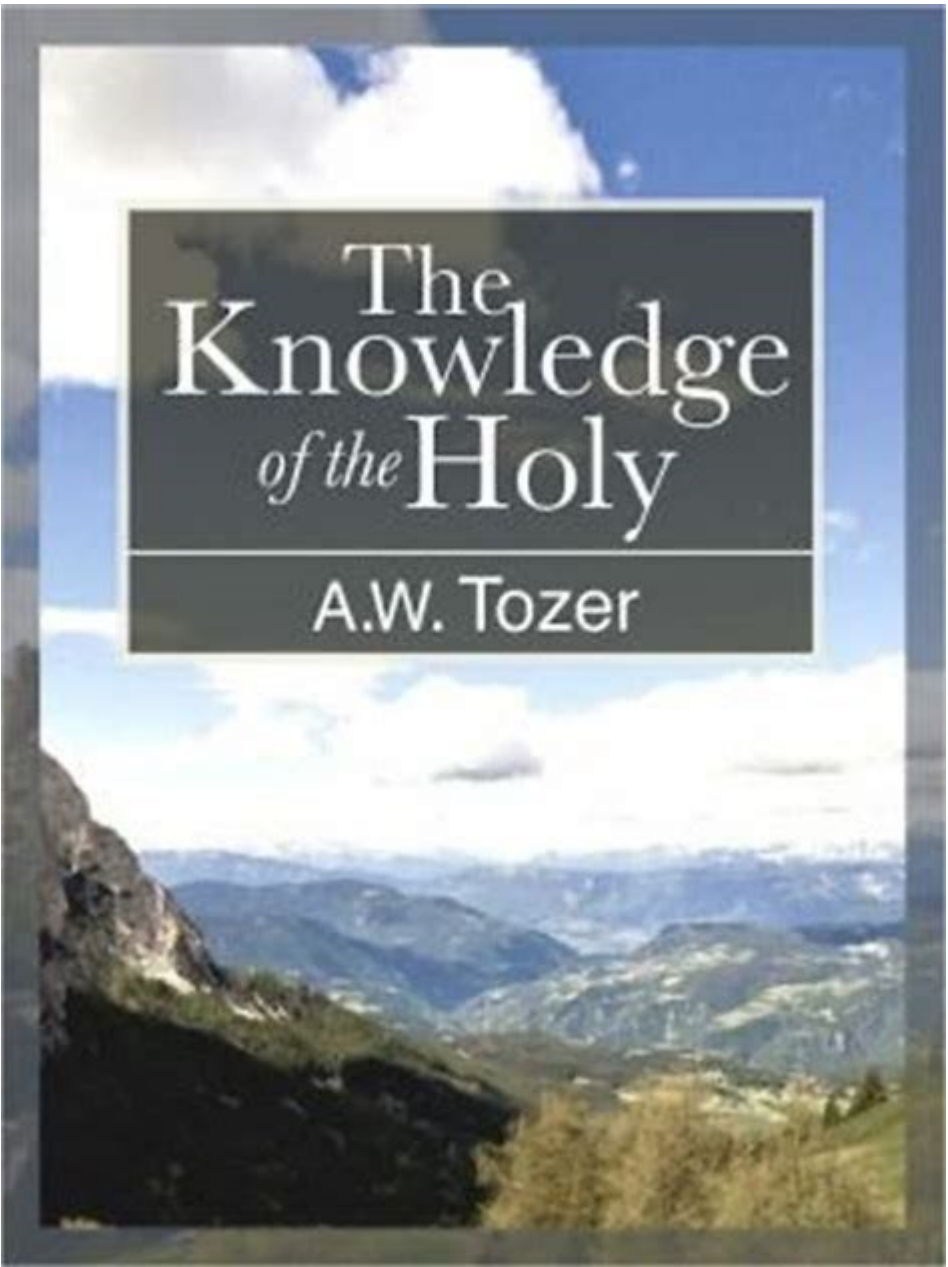


Christian Book Reports 2019

Christian Life Assembly The Journey Class

Jim Hoffman



The Knowledge of the Holy

A.W. Tozer

Who was A.W. Tozer?

- **Tozer (1897-1953) hailed from a tiny farming community in western Pennsylvania. He converted to Christianity as a teenager, in Akron, Ohio; while on his way home from work at a tire company, he overheard a street preacher say, "If you don't know how to be saved ... just call on God, saying, 'Lord, be merciful to me a sinner.'" Upon returning home, he climbed into the attic and heeded the preacher's advice. In 1919, five years after his conversion and without formal theological training, Tozer accepted an offer to serve as pastor of his first church. That began 44 years of ministry, associated with the Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA), a Protestant Evangelical denomination, 33 served as a pastor in a number of churches**

The Knowledge of the Holy

- **“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” A.W. Tozer**

Who is God and what is He like?

The Knowledge of the Holy

- **“So, were every man on earth to become atheist, it could not affect God in any way. He is what He is in Himself without regard to any other. To believe in Him adds nothing to His perfections; to doubt Him takes nothing away. Almighty God, just because He is almighty, needs no support.” A.W. Tozer**

Too many times we hear a man centered gospel preached where the emphasis is on what God can do for us, when what we really need to hear is what we owe to Him.

The Knowledge of the Holy

- **“Left to ourselves we tend immediately to reduce God to manageable terms. We want to get Him where we can use Him, or at least know where He is when we need Him. We want a God we can in some measure control.” A.W. Tozer**

It is a sad, sad thing to see that most of Christendom has little awe for God, and as a consequence of that they also have little trust in Him.

The Knowledge of the Holy

- **“Only after an ordeal of painful self-probing are we likely to discover what we actually believe about God.” A.W. Tozer**

We are influenced by sin in such a way that often the only time we will look to God is after we have exhausted all other options in our lives. Like the poor, the mourners, and humiliated, blessed are those who have options that are easy to exhaust.

The Knowledge of the Holy

- **“His interest in His creatures arises from His sovereign good pleasure, not from any need those creatures can supply nor from any completeness they can bring to Him who is complete in himself.” A.W. Tozer**

We live at the pleasure of God for the pleasure of God.

Rev 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. KJV

The Knowledge of the Holy

- **“The history of mankind will probably show that no people has ever risen above its religion, and man’s spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God.” A.W. Tozer**

We are told it is bad manners to speak of religion and politics outside of their respective places, but tell me what subjects exceed these two in terms of influencing our lives.

The Knowledge of the Holy

- **“Until we have seen ourselves as God see us, we are not likely to be much disturbed over conditions around us as long as they do not get so far out of hand as to threaten our comfortable way of life. We have learned to live with unholiness and have come to look upon it as the natural and expected thing.”** A.W. Tozer

Isaiah 6:4 And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. 5 Then I said, “Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.”

The Knowledge of the Holy

- **“To admit the existence of a need in God is to admit incompleteness in the divine Being. Need is a creature-word and cannot be spoken of the Creator. God has a voluntary relating to everything He has made, but He has no necessary relation to anything outside of Himself.” A.W. Tozer**

We have lived through decades of men trying to change and humanize the only One who needs no change.

Just like God does not need our money, he does not need us either.

The Knowledge of the Holy

- **“God sovereignly decreed that man should be free to exercise moral choice, and man from the beginning has fulfilled that decree by making his choice between good and evil. When he chooses to do evil, he does not thereby countervail the sovereign will of God but fulfills it inasmuch as the eternal decree decided not which choice the man should make but that he should be free to make it.” A.W. Tozer**

Mankind is free to make choices, but we are not without the influence of our sin natures as we choose.

We are free to choose what we want, but we are predisposed to want the wrong things.

The Knowledge of the Holy

- **“If in His absolute freedom God has willed to give man limited freedom, who is there to stay His hand or say, 'What doest thou?' Man’s will is free because God is sovereign. A God less than sovereign could not bestow moral freedom upon His creatures. He would be afraid to do so.” A.W. Tozer**

God shows His perfect justice by extending to mankind the ability to bow our knees to Him or not – He is not neutral in His desire in the matter, but He is just.

The Knowledge of the Holy

- **“To say that God is omniscient is to say that He possesses perfect knowledge and therefore has no need to learn. But it is more: it is to say that God has never learned and cannot learn.” A.W. Tozer**

Does God know calculus? Does He know electrical engineering? Does He know how to perform brain surgery?

We are often guilty of thinking of a god too small to be God.

The Knowledge of the Holy

- **“Secularism, materialism, and the intrusive presence of things have put out the light in our souls and turned us into a generation of zombies.”**

A.W. Tozer

Could we be witnessing a massive “zombieism” of an entire planet that is obsessed with technological devices?

The Knowledge of the Holy

- **“The greatness of God rouses fear within us, but His goodness encourages us not to be afraid of Him. To fear and not be afraid - that is the paradox of faith.” A.W. Tozer**

“He's not safe, but he's good (referring to Aslan, the Lion, in The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe)” C.S. Lewis

You would not want a safe God in times of trouble.

The Knowledge of the Holy

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Psalm 130:4 But there is forgiveness with Thee that Thou may be feared.

The fear of disappointing the One who has forgiven us.

The Knowledge of the Holy

- **“All Christians have tried to tell others about God, but none has ever done it very well. I can no more do justice to that awesome and wonder-filled theme than a child can grasp a star. Still by reaching toward the star the child may call attention to it and even indicate the direction one must look to see it.” A.W. Tozer**

Rom 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! 34 For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? 35 Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again? 36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

The Knowledge of the Holy

- **“Because man is born a rebel, he is unaware that he is one. His constant assertion of self, as far as he thinks of it at all, appears to him a perfectly normal thing. He is willing to share himself, sometimes even to sacrifice himself for a desired end, but never to dethrone himself.” A.W. Tozer**

We see the rebellion in mankind everywhere – even in his most charitable deeds and gifts he seeks credit from others or a tax deduction from the government. He will speak of God while holding the notion that he is his own master.

The Knowledge of the Holy

- **“God never changes moods or cools off in His affections or loses His enthusiasm. His attitude toward sin is now the same as it was when he drove out the sinful man from the eastward garden, and His attitude toward the sinner the same as when He stretched forth His hands and cried, “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”** A.W. Tozer

The theological term for the One who never changes is “The immutability of God”. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever – He is rock solid and totally reliable.

The Knowledge of the Holy

- **“With our loss of the sense of majesty has come the further loss of religious awe and consciousness of the divine Presence. We have lost our spirit of worship and our ability to withdraw inwardly to meet God in adoring silence. Modern Christianity is simply not producing the kind of Christian who can appreciate or experience the life in the Spirit.” A.W. Tozer**

I do believe that in our attempts to reach the modern world we have left Christians no public place to go to commune with God in an atmosphere of holy reverence.

The Knowledge of the Holy

- **“Teach us, O God, that nothing is necessary to Thee. Were anything necessary to Thee that thing would be the measure of Thine imperfection: and how could we worship one who is imperfect? If nothing is necessary to Thee, then no one is necessary, and if no one, then not we. Thou dost seek us though Thou does not need us. We seek Thee because we need Thee, for in Thee we live and move and have our being. Amen.” A.W. Tozer**

Tozer was a man in the mold that we should all seek to be in, one that exalts and magnifies God and not ourselves.

The Knowledge of the Holy

- **“Teach us to know that we cannot know, for the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Let faith support us where reason fails, and we shall think because we believe, not in order that we may believe.” A.W. Tozer**

1st Cor 2:14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. NASB

The Knowledge of the Holy

- **“What possible meaning can the self-existence of God have for me and others like me in a world such as this and in times such as these?” To this I reply that, because we are the handiwork of God, it follows that all our problems and their solutions are theological. Some knowledge of what kind of God it is that operates the universe is indispensable to a sound philosophy of life and a sane outlook on the world scene.” A.W. Tozer**

The self-existence of God ought to give us great confidence that the One we worship cannot be taken away, cannot decrease, and will not change.

The Knowledge of the Holy

- **“The vague and tenuous hope that God is too kind to punish the ungodly has become a deadly opiate for the consciences of millions.” A.W. Tozer**

Those thrown into the lake of fire will be put there by One who is not doing so mechanically, but with an unbridled passion. And, we the redeemed will praise and glorify God for His actions.

The Knowledge of the Holy

- **“God's being is unitary; it is not composed of a number of parts working harmoniously, but simply one. There is nothing in His justice which forbids the exercise of His mercy.” A.W. Tozer**

One could argue that while God was just in justifying us based on the sacrifice of His Son, He is also merciful to us everyday as He withholds His anger towards our sin.

The Knowledge of the Holy

- **“Faith must precede all effort to understand. Reflection upon revealed truth naturally follows the advent of faith, but faith comes first to the hearing ear, not to the cogitating mind.” A.W. Tozer**

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

No one reasons their way to Christ.

Questions