

Groups

Pursuit of God by A.W. Tozer

Overview: This group is designed for a 10 week semester. Summer groups can combine 2 weeks at a time to fit into the 6 week semester.

Week 1: Chapter 1 – Following Hard after God

Summary:

Tozer opens the book with a passionate plea for Christians to move beyond casual belief and into an intense, personal **pursuit of God**. He explains that there is a difference between knowing about God and actually knowing Him. The hunger for God doesn't end at salvation—it should only increase. Tozer believes that too many believers are content with a surface-level relationship and calls for a deeper longing to truly experience God's presence.

He uses Psalm 63:8 as a central theme: "My soul followeth hard after thee." This verse reflects the desire of a believer who isn't satisfied with distance but wants to be close to God. Tozer emphasizes that God is not hiding from us—He desires to be found. But He also wants us to seek Him with urgency and intention. Pursuing God isn't about performance, but about **relationship**.

The chapter ends with a reminder that spiritual complacency is a real danger. God doesn't force Himself on us—He invites us to draw near. The pursuit of God is not for the spiritually elite; it's for **anyone who wants more of Him**. And when we pursue God, we discover that He has already been pursuing us.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to "follow hard after God" in your daily life?
2. Why do you think many Christians settle for knowing about God instead of knowing Him personally?
3. What does spiritual hunger look like to you right now?

4. How can we cultivate a deeper desire for God's presence?
5. What is one intentional step you could take this week to pursue God more closely?

Week 2: Chapter 2 – The Blessedness of Possessing Nothing

Summary:

Tozer explores the biblical principle of surrendering everything to God. He reflects on Abraham's willingness to offer Isaac, demonstrating the importance of not allowing anything—even blessings from God—to become idols. The chapter teaches that spiritual progress comes from letting go.

True spiritual freedom and intimacy with God come when we release our grip on earthly possessions, relationships, and even dreams. When we allow God to reign without rival, our souls are lighter, freer, and more capable of communion with Him.

Tozer invites us into a posture of open-handedness. Rather than clinging, we are to trust that all things are better in God's hands. Surrender is not loss; it's gain.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some things in your life that are hard to surrender?
2. How does Abraham's story inspire or challenge you?
3. Why do possessions or people sometimes become idols?
4. What do you think Tozer means by "possessing nothing"?
5. How does surrender bring spiritual freedom?

Week 3: Chapter 3 – Removing the Veil

Summary:

In this chapter, Tozer uses the imagery of the veil in the temple to symbolize the barrier between God and man. He argues that the veil still exists spiritually when pride, self-reliance, and sin are present. To experience God fully, this veil must be torn.

Tozer teaches that the veil is not something God puts up, but something we create through fear, self-will, or spiritual apathy. Removing it requires brokenness, honesty, and a deep desire to be in God's presence.

This chapter invites believers to deal with the hidden parts of their hearts. God desires full access, but He won't force His way in. When the veil is removed, we see God more clearly, and we live with greater authenticity and freedom.

Discussion Questions:

1. What "veils" exist in your relationship with God?
2. How does pride or fear keep us from deeper intimacy with Him?
3. What does it mean to be spiritually transparent before God?
4. Have you ever experienced a "veil" being lifted in your life?
5. What practical step could help you remove barriers with God this week?

Week 4: Chapter 4 – Apprehending God

Summary:

Tozer challenges the notion that God is only known intellectually. Instead, he calls for an experiential knowledge—to apprehend God rather than merely comprehend Him. Faith is more than belief; it is encounter.

The chapter emphasizes that God is spirit and must be worshipped in spirit and truth. This means knowing God requires the Holy Spirit's illumination and the believer's humility.

Tozer encourages us to stop relying solely on reason and step into the mystery of knowing God by experience. God wants us to feel His nearness, to walk with Him, and to live as those who have truly encountered the divine.

Discussion Questions:

1. What's the difference between knowing God intellectually and knowing Him experientially?
2. How can you become more open to experiencing God personally?
3. What role does the Holy Spirit play in apprehending God?
4. Have you had moments where you felt God's nearness? What was that like?
5. Why do you think Tozer emphasizes mystery in our relationship with God?

Week 5: Chapter 5 – The Universal Presence

Summary:

God is everywhere, all the time—but many believers live as if He is distant. Tozer addresses this gap between God's omnipresence and our awareness of it. The chapter focuses on cultivating **God-consciousness** in everyday life.

Tozer explains that God's presence is not a feeling to chase but a reality to acknowledge. Whether on the mountaintop or in the mundane, He is there. The challenge is not God's nearness but our attentiveness.

He calls believers to practice the presence of God—to live each moment aware that He is closer than breath. Recognizing God's universal presence transforms the way we pray, work, and relate to others.

Discussion Questions:

1. How aware are you of God's presence throughout your day?
2. What practices help you stay connected to God moment by moment?
3. What might change if you lived with a constant awareness of God's nearness?
4. Have you ever felt far from God, even though you knew He was near?
5. How can this group encourage each other to live in God-consciousness?

Week 6: Chapter 6 – The Speaking Voice

Summary:

Tozer affirms that God still speaks today—not just through Scripture, but by His Spirit within us. He calls this the "Speaking Voice," the ongoing self-expression of God. The issue isn't that God is silent, but that we aren't always listening.

The Word of God is living, and through it, God communicates personally. Tozer warns against letting tradition or distraction drown out God's voice. A sensitive spirit and a quiet heart are necessary to hear Him clearly.

He encourages believers to expect God to speak—not always audibly, but deeply and clearly through Scripture, prayer, and reflection. Our lives should be in tune with His continual conversation.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the "Speaking Voice" of God mean to you?
2. How do you hear God most clearly?
3. What keeps us from listening to God's voice?
4. How does Scripture become personal when God speaks through it?
5. How can you quiet your heart to better hear God this week?

Week 7: Chapter 7 – The Gaze of the Soul

Summary:

Tozer describes faith as the gaze of the soul—the continuous inward look toward God. Just as a compass needle points north, the soul of a believer must remain fixed on Christ.

This gaze is not a quick glance but a steady, loving focus. Tozer draws from Scripture and saints of the past to illustrate how believers can live in communion with God by maintaining their spiritual gaze.

He emphasizes that this is a discipline, but also a delight. As we fix our eyes on Jesus, distractions fade, and our desires align with His.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to fix your gaze on God?
2. How can we keep our spiritual focus in a busy world?
3. What practices help you keep your attention on Christ?
4. How does a distracted gaze affect your spiritual walk?
5. What would it look like for you to "practice the gaze" this week?

Week 8: Chapter 8 – Restoring the Creator-Creature Relation

Summary:

Tozer teaches that the rightful place of God as Creator and man as creature must be restored. Sin distorts this relationship, making man proud and self-reliant. Worship restores this balance.

He argues that the greatest tragedy of the fall was the loss of proper worship. Worship is not a Sunday activity—it is a life posture that puts God first and keeps Him at the center.

When God is glorified, man is fulfilled. Reorienting ourselves around God's supremacy brings peace and purpose.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to restore the Creator-creature relationship?
2. How can worship help us regain this perspective?
3. What false ideas about yourself or God do you need to let go of?
4. How does recognizing God's greatness impact your daily life?
5. In what ways can your worship grow deeper this week?

Week 9: Chapter 9 – Meekness and Rest

Summary:

Tozer identifies pride as one of the main causes of spiritual unrest. He offers meekness as the cure. Meekness isn't weakness; it is strength under control and the willingness to let go of our own rights.

The meek person is free from the burden of always needing to defend or elevate themselves. This kind of freedom brings deep rest to the soul. Jesus modeled meekness and invited His followers to learn from Him.

Tozer teaches that rest comes not from escape but from surrender. In laying down pride, we pick up peace.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does pride create unrest in your life?
 2. What does true meekness look like to you?
 3. Why do you think meekness brings rest?
 4. How can you grow in meekness this week?
 5. What would it mean to trust God with your reputation or rights?
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Week 10: Chapter 10 – The Sacrament of Living

Summary:

Tozer closes the book with the powerful idea that all of life is sacred. There is no divide between secular and sacred for the believer. Every task, done in God's name and for His glory, becomes worship.

He challenges readers to live with intentionality and reverence, whether they are praying or working, serving or resting. This mindset transforms the mundane into holy ground.

The pursuit of God does not end at the church door. It continues in the kitchen, the office, and the street. All of life can become a living sacrifice.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to live as if all of life is sacred?
2. How can you turn ordinary routines into acts of worship?
3. What area of your life have you viewed as "secular" that could be surrendered to God?
4. How does this chapter reframe your understanding of spiritual maturity?
5. What would it look like to live the next 7 days as an act of worship?