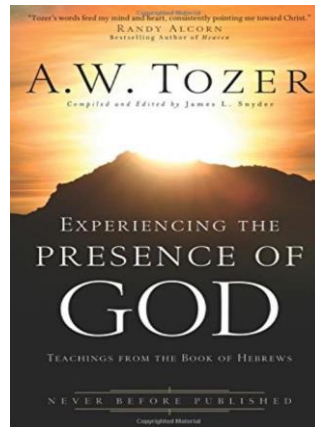


Personal or Group Study Guide

For Reflection and Discussion

A.W. TOZER EXPERIENCING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

TEACHINGS FROM THE BOOK OF HEBREWS



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C O N T E N T S

A.W. TOZER: Experiencing the Presence of God

TEACHINGS FROM THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

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Chapter One

STRIVING TOWARDS GOD'S PRESENCE

*Read Hebrews 1:1-3

Discussion Points:

1. It is only through the experience of the awesome majesty of God's Presence that can satisfy the great passion of the human heart. There is a place within the human heart that was created by God and a place that only He can fill. We cannot explain it, this desire that seems so unobtainable. We try to fill this void with things that we think will satisfy only to be left empty and still restless. What does Tozer note as the highest accomplishment of humanity? (Pg.16 P.1)
2. How does man try to solve and satisfy this inner longing? (Pg. 16 P.2)
*Read Mid. Pg. 16 to Top Pg. 17 Comments:

Man's Striving for Altitude

*Read Pg. 17 P.2 & 3

3. Intimacy with the Creator separates man from all other of God's creations. We are born to ascend into the very environment of God's presence where we belong; but something has clipped our wings. How are we like an eagle whose wings have been clipped? (Pg. 17 P.4 & Top Pg. 18)

Hindrances to God's Presence

4. What is the greatest hindrance to God's Presence? (Pg. 18 P.3))

*The good news is that Christ has paid the debt and has bridged the gap to God for all. Tozer lists 3 challenges that stand in our way as we strive for God's presence:

- The Moral Bankruptcy of the Human Soul

Tozer speaks about man's violation of the moral order of God's kingdom, and how the debt we owe must be paid. Religion does it through what is referred to as "good works" resulting in emptiness and a deep seated guilt that nothing can wash away.

Discuss Pgs. 18 –19 *Read Top Pg. 20

Comments:

Man was fully pardoned from the act of rebellion through Jesus Christ and was restored to full citizenship in the kingdom of God and made to be a child of the Father. There is still yet another hindrance.

- The Foul Scent of Sin Upon Us *Read Mid. Pg. 20

“Although the past has been dealt with, the present condition also must be addressed. The very presence of sinful thoughts, for example, inhibits our approach into the Presence of God. Not only do we need a change of heart, but we also need a change of garment. Some fountain must be opened in the House of David for sin and uncleanness, so that we may not only be forgiven but also cleansed.” A.W.T.

5. What provision was made by our Lord Jesus Christ? (Pg. 21 P. 2)

Discuss Pgs. 21- Top 22

- The Lost Concept of Majesty (Mid. Pg.22)

6. Not only our garments, but also our _____ need divine purification. We must come into His presence in a way that is _____ of Him.

When we cease to appreciate the majestic nature of man, we cease to appreciate the majesty of God. How did we get to this place? The world’s theories established by men like Charles Darwin have warped and have reduced mankind to having evolved from an ooze of the sea to a muddy creature crawling its way up to a bird, then monkey and finally into what we appear to be now. This is what the world system wants us to believe, taking away all sense of majesty. You could not possibly respect that which crawled up from below.

Tozer uses Darwin’s theory and Einstein as examples of how man has taken away all sense of majesty from God’s creation. Jesus Christ who by Himself purged our sins and is now seated at the right hand of the Majesty on High. (Discuss Pg. 22, 23, & 24) – Your comments:

Reclaiming Our Sense of the Majesty on High *Read Bot. Pg. 25

Many Christians today are seeking shortcuts to the blessings that come from experiencing the Presence of God. We tend to go for one shiny religious gadget to another. There is no neat formula for this. Rather, we need to whet the spiritual appetite for that which it truly craves the Presence of God.

7. What does Tozer say that the purpose of this book is for? (Pg. 26 P.3)
8. What is the good news that causes us to overcome all barriers to entering into the Presence of God? (Pg.26 P.4)

Poem: God Is Present Everywhere by: Oliver Holden (1775 -1844)

NOTES