

The Pursuit of God - by A.W. Tozer
Chapter 3 - Removing the Veil

“Therefore, brothers, since we have boldness to enter the sanctuary through the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way He has opened for us through the curtain (that is, His flesh), and since we have a great high priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water.” Hebrews 10:19-22

1. God’s intended that we would live always in communion with Him. But we have all revolted and broken with God, and have fled as far as possible from His presence. Sin broke our relationship and fellowship with Him.
2. The whole work of God in redemption is to undo the tragic effects of that revolt, and to restore our right and eternal relationship with Himself. This requires:
 - That our sins be disposed of satisfactorily. **1 John 3:5; Matt. 26:27-28**
 - That a full reconciliation be effected. **Ephesians 2:13-16; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21**
 - The way opened for us to return into conscious communion with God and to live again in His presence. **John 14:23; Ephesians 2:17-18**
 - Then by His working within us. He moves us to return.
3. This journey of the soul from the wilds of sin into the enjoyed presence of God is beautifully illustrated in the Old Testament tabernacle.
 - The returning sinner first entered the outer court where he offered a blood sacrifice on the brazen altar and washed himself in the laver that stood near it.
 - Then he passed through a veil into the holy place where no natural light could come, but the golden candlestick which spoke of Jesus threw its light over all. There also was the showbread to tell of Jesus, and the altar of incense.
 - The worshiper had not yet entered the presence of God. Another veil separated from the Holy of Holies where above the mercy seat dwelt the presence of God Himself in awful and glorious manifestation.
 - It was this last veil which was rent when our Lord died on Calvary, which opened the way for every worshiper to come by the new and living way straight into the divine Presence.
 - Ransomed men need no longer pause in fear to enter the Holy of Holies. God wills that we should push on into His presence and live our whole life there. (Hebrews 10:19)
 - The greatest fact of the tabernacle was that Jehovah was there; a Presence was waiting within the veil. Similarly, the Presence of God is the central fact of Christianity. At the heart of the Christian message is God Himself waiting for His redeemed children to push in to conscious awareness of His presence. He wants to show Himself in ravishing fullness to the humble of soul and the pure in heart.

4. Why do we consent to abide all our days just outside the Holy of Holies and never enter at all to look upon God? What hinders us?
 - What but the presence of a veil in our hearts? A veil not taken away as the first veil was, but which remains there still shutting out the light of Christ and hiding the face of God from us.
 - It is the veil of our fleshly, fallen nature living on, unjudged within us, uncrucified and unrepudiated.
 - It is the closely woven veil of the self-life which we have never truly acknowledged, of which we have been secretly ashamed, and which for these reasons we have never brought to the judgment of The Cross.
 - It is woven of the fine threads of the self-life, the hyphenated sins of the human spirit. They are not something we *do*, they are something we *are*, and therein lays both their subtlety and their power.
 - They dwell too deep within us and are too much a part of our natures to come to our attention till the light of God is focused upon them.

5. Self is the opaque veil that hides the face of God from us. It can be removed only in *spiritual experience* - never by mere instruction.
 - There must be a work of God in destruction before we are free. We must invite the cross to do its deadly work within us. We must bring our self-sins to the cross for judgment.
 - In human experience that veil is made of living spiritual tissue, and to touch it is to touch us where we feel pain. To tear it away is to injure us, to hurt us and make us bleed. To say otherwise is to make the cross no cross and death no death at all.
Hebrews 12:4-12
 - Let us beware of tinkering with our inner life, hoping to rend the veil ourselves. *God must do everything for us.* Our part is to yield and trust. We must confess, forsake, repudiate the self-life, and then reckon it crucified. But we must be careful to distinguish lazy “acceptance” from the real work of God. We must insist upon the work being done. We dare not rest content with a neat doctrine of self-crucifixion.
Romans 6:11; Galatians 6:14; Galatians 2:20

“Lord, how excellent are Thy ways, and how devious and dark are the ways of man. Show us how to die, that we may rise again to newness of life. Rend the veil of our self-life from the top down as Thou didst rend the veil of the Temple. We would draw near in full assurance of faith. We would dwell with Thee in daily experience here on this earth so that we may be accustomed to the glory when we enter Thy heaven to dwell with Thee there. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”