

***The Pursuit of God*, by A.W. Tozer**

Week #4 – Chapter 4 Apprehending God & Chapter 5 The Universal God

1. Christians, *in theory*, believe in the personality of God, that He is knowable in the sense that we know things or people.
 - We apprehend the physical world by exercising the faculties given us for that purpose, and we possess spiritual faculties by means of which we can know God and the spiritual world if we will obey the Spirit's urge and begin to use them.
2. Why then do so many Christians know so little of that habitual, conscious communion with God which Scripture offers? The answer is because of our chronic ***unbelief***.
 - Faith enables our spiritual senses to function. Where faith is defective the result will be inward insensibility and numbness toward spiritual things.
 - A spiritual kingdom lies all about us, enclosing us, embracing us, waiting for us to recognize it. God Himself is here waiting our response to His presence.
 - This eternal world will come alive to us the moment we begin to ***reckon*** upon its ***reality***.
3. ***Reality*** does not depend upon the observer for its validity. That which is real has being in itself.
 - God has objective existence independent of and apart from any notions which we may have concerning Him.
 - The worshipping heart does not create its Object. It finds Him here when it wakes from its moral slumber in the morning of its regeneration.
4. Another word that must be cleared up is ***reckon***. This does not mean to visualize or imagine. Imagination is not faith.
 - Imagination projects unreal images out of the mind and seeks to attach reality to them. Faith creates nothing; it simply reckons upon that which is already there.
 - God and the spiritual world are real. We can reckon upon them with as much assurance as we reckon upon the familiar world around us.
5. At the root of the Christian life lies belief in the invisible. The object of our faith is unseen reality. **Hebrews 11:1-6**
 - Our uncorrected thinking tends to draw a contrast between the spiritual and the real – but actually no such contrast exists.
 - The contrast lies elsewhere – between the real and the imaginary; between the spiritual and the material; between the temporal and the eternal. But never between the spiritual and the real. The spiritual is real.
 - We must break our habit of ignoring the spiritual. We need to shift our interest from the seen to the unseen. For the great unseen Reality is God. Hebrews 11:6
 - This spiritual world is not something to only look forward to in the future. It is here now. **Hebrews 12:22-24**

- May we not safely conclude that, as the realities of Mount Sinai were apprehended by the senses, so the realities of Mount Zion are to be grasped by the soul? The soul has eyes with which to see and ears with which to hear. Feeble though they be from long disuse, but by the life-giving touch of Christ they are now alive and capable of sharpest sight and most sensitive hearing.
6. One of the most significant truths in Christian teaching is that of “divine immanence”. God dwells in His creation and is everywhere present. Divine immanence simply means that *God is here*. He is everywhere present; there is no place where He is not.
- Adam sinned and, in his shame, tried to do the impossible – he tried to hide from the presence of God.
 - David understood that there was no place to hide from God; there was no place where God wasn’t present. **Psalm 139:7-8**
 - Paul understood that God was always close to all of us. **Acts 17:27-28**
 - The problem with most Christians is that they are not *consciously aware* of God’s presence. God manifests Himself to us when we co-operate with Him in loving obedience.
 - It is a great moment when we really begin to believe that God’s promise of self-revelation is literally true. Our pursuit of God is successful just because He is forever seeking to manifest Himself to us.
 - We must pray for an increasing degree of awareness, and for a more perfect consciousness of the divine Presence. God is nearer than our own soul; closer than our most secret thoughts.
7. Why do some persons “find” God in a way that others do not?
- The difference lies not with God but with us. The one vital quality which they have in common was *spiritual receptivity*. Something in them was open to heaven, something which urged them Godward. **Psalm 27:8**
 - They had spiritual awareness and they went on to cultivate it until it became the biggest thing in their lives. They acquired the lifelong habit of spiritual response.
 - The idea of cultivation and exercise, so dear to the saints of old, now has no place in our total religious picture.
 - Spiritual receptivity is an affinity for, a bent toward, a sympathetic response to, a desire to have. It may be increased by exercise, or destroyed by neglect. **James 4:8**
 - It is a gift of God, but one which must be recognized and cultivated as any other gift if we are to realize the purpose for which it was given.
 - We have within us the ability to know Him if we will but respond to His overtures. We will know Him in increasing degree as our receptivity becomes more perfect by faith and love and practice.

O God, quicken to life every power within me, that I may lay hold on eternal things. Open my eyes that I may see; give me acute spiritual perception; enable me to taste Thee and know that Thou art good. Make heaven more real to me than any earthly thing has ever been. I repent of my sinful pre-occupation with visible things. The world has been too much with me. Thou hast been here and I knew it not. I have been blind to Thy presence. Open my eyes that I may behold Thee in and around me. For Christ’s sake. Amen.