

Lesson #5
The Pursuit of God, by A.W. Tozer

Chapter 6 - The Speaking Voice

1. God is not silent. He has never been silent. It is the nature of God to speak. The second Person of the Holy Trinity is called the Word. **John 1:1**
 - God is forever seeking to speak Himself out to His creation.
2. The Bible is the written word of God. Because God never changes and His word never changes, He continues to speak to us through the Bible.
 - The life is in the speaking words. **John 6:63; Hebrews 4:12**
3. In the beginning He spoke to nothing, and it became *something*. Chaos heard it and became order; darkness heard it and became light. "And God said ... and it was so." **Genesis 1:9; Psalm 33:6, 9; Hebrews 11:3**
 - God did not write a book and send it by messenger to be read at a distance by unaided minds. He spoke a Book and lives in His spoken words, constantly speaking His words and causing the power of them to persist across the years.
4. No one is excused. The Word of God affects the hearts of all men as light to the soul. In the hearts of all men the light shines, the Word sounds, and there is no escaping them. **John 1:9; Romans 1:20**
 - The Voice (**Wisdom**) is everywhere sounding and searching throughout the earth, seeking some response from the sons of men. **Proverbs 8:1-4**
 - In the living, breathing cosmos there is a mysterious Something, too wonderful, too awful for any mind to understand. The believing man does not claim to understand. He falls to his knees and whispers, "God."
 - The man of earth kneels also, but not to worship. He kneels to examine, to search, to find the cause and the how of things; to explain, than to go on his way, too busy or too stubborn to give attention.
5. Many have a wrong conception of and a wrong feeling for the Scriptures. We should approach the Bible with the idea that it is not only a book which was once spoken, but a book which is *now speaking*.
 - The prophets habitually said, "Thus saith the Lord". They meant their hearers to understand that God's speaking is in the continuous present. A word of God once spoken continues to be spoken, as a child once born continues to be alive, or a world once created continues to exist. The Word of God endureth forever.
 - We should come to the Bible expecting it to speak to us. It is more than a thing; it is a voice, a word, the very Word of the Living God.

Chapter 7 - The Gaze of the Soul

1. High on the list of things the Bible teaches is the doctrine of *faith*. Faith is all-important in the life of the soul, indispensable in our pursuit of God.
 - What is faith? **Hebrews 11:1; 6; Genesis 15:6**

- Hebrews 11:1 is the closest to a definition. Even there, we find a statement of what faith is in *operation*, not what it is in *essence*. It shows what faith results in, rather than what it is.
 - How do we get faith? **Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 10:17**
 - Thomas a Kempis said, "I had rather exercise faith than know the definition thereof".
2. *Looking* on the Old Testament serpent is the same as *believing* on the New Testament Christ. **Numbers 21:4-9 and John 3:14-15**
 - While Israel looked with their external eyes, believing is done with the heart.
 - Tozer concludes that "*faith is the gaze of the soul upon a saving God*". **Psalm 123:1-2**
 - Our Lord Himself looked always to God. **John 5:19-21**
 - From all this, we learn that faith is not a once-done act, but a continuous gaze of the heart at the Triune God. **Hebrews 12:2**
 - Believing, then, is directing the heart's attention to Jesus. It is lifting the mind to "behold the Lamb of God," and never ceasing that beholding for the rest of our lives.
 3. Faith is the least self-regarding of the virtues, scarcely conscious of its own existence.
 - Like the eye which sees everything in front of it and never sees itself, faith is occupied with the Object upon which it rests and pays no attention to itself at all.
 - Faith is a re-directing of our sight, getting *self* out of the focus of our vision and getting God into focus. While we are looking at God we do not see ourselves.
 - Sin has twisted our vision inward and made it self-regarding. Faith looks *out* instead of *in*.
 5. Now, if faith is the gaze of the heart at God, and if this gaze is but the raising of the inward eyes to meet the all-seeing eyes of God, then it follows that it is one of the easiest things possible to do.
 - Since believing is looking of the heart, it can be done without special equipment or religious paraphernalia; it can be done at any time; it can be done at any place.
 6. We should constantly practice this habit of inwardly gazing upon God. A new set of eyes (so to speak) will develop within us enabling us to be looking at God while our outward eyes are seeing the scenes of this passing world.

Lord, teach me to listen. The times are noisy and my ears are weary with the thousand raucous sounds which continuously assault them. Give me the spirit of the boy Samuel when he said to Thee, "Speak, for thy servant heareth." Let me hear Thee speaking in my heart. Let me get used to the sound of Thy voice, that its tones may be familiar when the sounds of earth die away and the only sound will be the music of Thy speaking voice.

O Lord, I have heard a good word inviting me to look away to Thee and be satisfied. My heart longs to respond, but sin has clouded my vision till I see Thee but dimly. Be pleased to cleanse me in Thine own precious blood, and make me inwardly pure, so that I may with unveiled eyes gaze upon Thee all the days of my earthly pilgrimage. Then shall I be prepared to behold Thee in full splendor in the day when Thou shalt appear to be glorified in Thy saints and admired in all them that believe. Amen.