

Lesson #6
The Pursuit of God, by A.W. Tozer

Chapter 8 - Restoring the Creator-Creature Relation

1. Order in nature depends on right relationships – each thing must be in its proper position relative to each other thing. The cause of all our human misery is a “radical moral dislocation” - an upset in our relation to God and to each other.
 - For whatever else the Fall may have been, it was certainly a total change in man’s relation to his Creator. He had destroyed the proper Creator-creature relation in which, unknown to him, his true happiness lay.
 - When we take for ourselves the place that is His, the whole course of our lives is out of joint.
2. A satisfactory spiritual life will begin with a complete change in relation between God and the sinner. The atonement in Jesus' blood makes such a change *judicially* possible, and the working of the Holy Spirit makes it *experientially* possible.
3. We get our moral bearings by looking at God. He is the fixed center against which everything else is measured, where the law of relativity does not enter and we can say, “IS” and make no allowances. “I am that I am,” says God, “I change not.”
 - We must begin with God. We are right when, and only when, we stand in a right position relative to God, and we are wrong so far and so long as we stand in any other position.
4. Much of our difficulty stems from our unwillingness to take God as He is and adjust our lives accordingly. Instead, we want to modify Him and bring Him nearer to our own image.
 - We can get a right start only by accepting God as He is and learning to love Him for what He is.
5. So let us begin with God. Back of all, above all, before all is God; first in sequential order, above in rank and station, exalted in dignity and honor. He gave being to all things, and all things exist out of Him and for Him. **Rom. 11:36; Rev. 4:11**
 - God being who and what He is, and we being who and what we are, the only thinkable relation between us is one of *full Lordship* on His part and *complete submission* on ours. We owe Him every honor that is in our power to give Him. Our everlasting grief lies in giving Him anything less.
 - The pursuit of God will embrace the labor of bringing our total personality into conformity to His – a **voluntary exalting** of God to His proper station over us, and a **willing surrender** of our whole being to a place of **worshipful submission** before Him.
6. The moment we make up our minds that we are going to exalt God over all, we will find ourselves out of adjustment to the ways of the world. We will acquire a new viewpoint, and a new mindset will be formed within us. Our break with the world will be the direct outcome of our changed relation to God.

7. "Be thou exalted" is the language of victorious spiritual experience. It is a little key to unlock the door to great treasures of grace. It is central in the life of God in the soul. Let the seeking man reach a place where life and lips join to say continually, "Be thou exalted"
 - The Christian life ceases to be the complicated thing it had been before, and becomes the very essence of simplicity.
 - We will not be concerned about losing any human dignity by this voluntary sell-out of our all to God. Rather, we will find our right place of high honor as one made in the image of our Creator

8. God honors those who honor Him. **1Samuel 2:30; John 12:26**
 - This principle may be seen in perfection in Jesus. He sought not His own honor, but the honor of the Father who sent Him. **John 8:54**
 - The desire for honor among men made belief impossible. **John 5:44**
 - The whole course of life is upset by our failure to put God where He belongs. We exalt ourselves instead of God, and the curse follows.
 - God also has desires. He desires those who will exalt Him over all. In them He can display His exceeding kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. **Ephesians 2:6-7**

9. WARNING! This God-above-all position is one not easy to take. The mind may approve it while not having the consent of the will to put it into effect **Isaiah 29:13**
 - The whole man must make the decision before the heart can know any real satisfaction. God wants the whole person, and He will not rest until He gets us in our entirety. Just a part of us will not do.

10. What to do? Pray over this in detail, throwing ourselves at God's feet in total surrender. **Psalm 51:16-17**
 - God will unveil His glory to us. **John 17:24**
 - God will place all His treasures at the disposal of those who completely honor Him. **2 Corinthians 4:6-7; Matthew 6:33**

"O God, be Thou exalted over my possessions. Nothing of earth's treasures shall seem dear unto me if only Thou art glorified in my life. Be Thou exalted over my friendships. I am determined that Thou shalt be above all, though I must stand deserted and alone in the midst of the earth. Be Thou exalted over my comforts. Though it means the loss of bodily comforts and the carrying of heavy crosses, I shall keep my vow made this day before Thee. Be Thou exalted over my reputation. Make me ambitious to please Thee even if as a result I must sink into obscurity and my name be forgotten as a dream. Rise, O Lord, into Thy proper place of honor, above my ambitions, above my likes and dislikes, above my family, my health and even my life itself. Let me decrease that Thou mayest increase; let me sink that Thou mayest rise above. Amen.