

## The Pursuit of God.....Chapter 4: Apprehending God

1. I said, that “there are ways in which prescribing to a mis-characterization of WHO – is worse than not knowing Him at all.” Do you believe this is true? Discuss why you hold that view?
2. In the last chapter and in this, Tozer described many divisions of Christianity as holding God in their intellect without requiring that they experience Him in their reality.
  - a. How has this been true of you?

This is NOT intended as a “us” versus “them” discussion, but one in which we evaluate ourselves and our own experiences in vulnerable humility to one another. The goal of this exercise is to pinpoint weak points in our relationship with Him so that once we are aware of them they may be the focus of our attention rather than continuing to be neglected and ignored.

CAUTION: If all you are able to supply to this discussion is how it does not apply to you, please separate yourself for a while to get alone with God and seek His face for a revelation of the truth in regards to your actual relationship with Him.

3. Tozer said, “...Why do the very ransomed children of God themselves..know so little of that habitual conscious communion with God?” He answers, “Chronic unbelief”.

Belief is a precious thing because it can only come as a revelation “of God which He brings to your attention specifically and personally. God discovers Himself sometimes as a sovereign act, but MOST of the time in response to our drawing near in sincerity.

Tozer describes a type of REAL conscious communion with God as the normal Christian experience. This type of relationship however requires dedication, devotion, NOT a daily, but a moment by moment turning of the attention back towards God. So often it is NOT a conscious turning to God, but a conscious effort to not turn away – empowered by the Holy Spirit.

What are some of the things you believe are your diversions or “shiny objects” which draw you away from conscious intimacy with Him?

CAUTION: Again – please do not come to this discussion with ways in which you are successful...THAT is counter productive to our goal here. We are ONLY seeking honesty and vulnerability – answers will arise both naturally and vertically from God within that environment of humility rather than coming horizontally by comparing the methods of our limited successes.

4. Tozer introduces two words he defines...Reckon and Reality.
  - a. Reality he defines as “that which has existence apart from any idea any mind may have of it, and which would exist if there were no mind anywhere to entertain a thought of it.”
    - i. What will seeking a knowing of God which is true in “Reality” accomplish?
    - ii. How can we facilitate such a search – practically?
    - iii. What are obstacles which you either KNOW or SUSPECT present roadblocks in this pursuit?
  - b. Reckon he defines as, “a belief in the invisible”. In other words he defines reckoning as a determination to believe what one cannot always prove by illustration or example. He goes on to clarify this by comparing belief in that which is REAL with that which is only “imagined”.
    - i. Describe an incident where you have been brought to an awareness that there was a difference between what you believed was real (but was only imagined) and what was truly real.
      1. What did this revelation do to you?
      2. What difficulties did it compel you to face?
      3. What did you discover about yourself when it happened? (For example – many people discover if they have a fight or flight personality in times like these. The avoider will “take flight” and avoid the inner conflict by denial. The confronter will “stick and stay” and either seek to justify their belief even in the face of new evidence OR they will wrestle with it until they can find no justification to resist it any longer.
    - ii. At this point in your life to you believe your love of the Truth is stronger than your need to defend yourself?
      1. In either case (Yes or No) what can you do to increase your sensitivity of heart to seek and desire truth regardless of what it costs you?
      - 2.
5. Tozer challenges us to begin to shift our INTERESTS from the seen to the unseen....to begin to make a habit of thinking, “otherworldly”...
  - a. Notice that Tozer did NOT say to shift our ATTENTION but our INTERESTS....discuss this for a while.
  - b. What are ways in which we can experience God in which might quite naturally use terms we use for natural relationships...such as taste, see, hear, smell & touch?
6. In closing, after mentioning John 14:21-23, Tozer suggests that if we do the things he outlines in this chapter, “God will seize upon us and we will begin to taste and hear and inwardly feel the God Who is our life and our all.” Talk a little while about how maintaining this potential and promise as an ACTIVE hope in our hearts might very well usher in an intimacy and longing for God’s presence as a real experience as opposed to dormant intellectual fact.