

THE
Quotable
Tozer

A TOPICAL COMPILATION
OF THE WISDOM AND
INSIGHT OF A.W. TOZER

A.W.
TOZER

JAMES L. SNYDER,
COMPILER AND EDITOR



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INTRODUCTION

While doing my research for the biography of A.W. Tozer, I spent some time with Ray McAfee, Dr. Tozer's assistant for many years. One thing he said stuck with me: "Nobody could say it quite like Tozer." It didn't mean so much immediately, but as I looked deeper into Tozer's work, I began to understand what McAfee was talking about. A.W. Tozer had a unique way of saying things. I think I can say safely that he never said anything off the top of his head. I believe everything was carefully thought through before he spoke.

To create *The Quotable Tozer*, I have gone through all of his books and pulled quotes from them that I believe will help readers get to know him better and understand who he was.

The most interesting section of work was with the 475 editorials Tozer wrote for *The Alliance Weekly/Witness*, the periodical of which he was editor from 1950 until his death in 1963. The topics range from A to Z. As I read through them from the first to the last, I noticed how he grew over the years, especially in the area of writing. He certainly did have a way with words. Even though *The Alliance Weekly/Witness* was a denominational publication, most people subscribed to it because of A.W. Tozer's editorials. They were published all over the world at the time.

To begin a project like this, I hardly knew where to start and where to stop. My purpose in putting it together was first for those who may not be acquainted with Tozer's writings, to introduce the reader to them in small slices that they can absorb. In addition, I wanted to include short pieces that might be used on social media, such as Twitter and Facebook.

Introduction

If no one else benefits from this book, and I know you will, it was enough that I have greatly benefited. Often during its preparation, I was experiencing some difficult times, and the words of Tozer on those days encouraged me like I had not been encouraged in a long time. My prayer is that you will experience this as well. Of course, I also hope that preachers, speakers, writers, and magazine editors will find this a beneficial volume to their work and ministry.

One more thing I found interesting about the writings of A.W. Tozer is just how relevant they are today. One of his quotes speaks to this: “Whatever is new isn’t true, and whatever is true isn’t new.” Think about that. The problems A.W. Tozer addressed concerning the church in his day are the same problems that need addressing in the church today. I believe one reason for this is that he didn’t focus on passing fads of the day, but on the truth set forth in the Word of God.

—James L. Snyder

AMBITIONS

We have desires, ambitions, and programs, and we try to push them forward not knowing that God has a well-laid-out plan for us.

Alive in the Spirit

God will lead me into a rich place and make me rich with treasures that can never die. If I want my own way, God will let me go my own way. Many Christians do just that.

My Daily Pursuit

We have been offered the face of God and the glory of Christ. We have been offered holiness and righteousness and indwelling by the Spirit. We can have our prayers answered and have hell fear us because we have a hold on God who invites us to draw on His omnipotence. We are offered all this, and yet we sit and play second violin without ambition.

Rut, Rot or Revival

Who wins when it's a choice between God and money, between God and ambition?

Success and the Christian

Some people are religiously ambitious. Sometimes what we want is not in the will of God but rather for self-aggrandizement, and the result is there is a cloud between us and God.

The Crucified Life

Ambitions

Here is the secret, if there is any such thing. Give up your friendships, your possessions, your comforts, your ambitions, your reputation, your health, and even your life and you will find that God will give it all back to you. “Pressed down, shaken together, and running over” (Luke 6:38).

The Crucified Life

Ambitions drive men, enslave them, send them on, and then at last hurl their victims down in disappointment. Human society has also arranged amusements in order to quiet the victim while death creeps nearer all the time.

The Wisdom of God

ANGELS

The angels have certain capacities. They are holy and obey God. The seraphim sit around the throne and know God, but they do not know God as man knows God. God meant for man to be higher than the angels, and He made him in such a way that, for a little while, he is lower than the angels so that He might raise him higher than the angels. When it is all over and we are known as we are known, we will rise higher in the hierarchy of God than the very angels themselves.

The Crucified Life

Never imagine that the archangels, seraphim, and angels in heaven are God Almighty's helpers that He created in order to help Him get along, much as a farmer might hire ten men to help him at harvesttime so that he will not be stuck when the rains come.

And He Dwelt Among Us

Christ could be incarnated in the form of a man, but not in the form of an angel. No matter how high in the order of beings the angels may be, they were never said to be created in the image of God.

Experiencing the Presence of God

God made you a Christian, and when He made you a Christian, He honored you above angels and seraphim and cherubim and archangels.

God's Greatest Gift to Man

We are made in the image of God, only a little lower than the angels, and are to be higher than the angels. That is what we were and that is what we

potentially are. But without the new birth and redemption and forgiveness and cleansing, we will find our place in that hell reserved for the devil and his fallen angels.

Living as a Christian

If angels can be envious, they might look upon ransomed sinners and desire to look into the mystery of God's atonement. The angels, who can bear the burning bliss before the throne, have never known a sinful world like this. God merely tells them to go help His people and sends them out to be ministering spirits to those who shall be heirs of salvation, but He never explains the atonement to them.

My Daily Pursuit

In my thinking of angels, it occurs to me that although the angels wonder at the grace of God, they can never fathom the depth of that grace. No angel can sing with any meaning, "Marvelous grace of our loving God." No angel can sing, "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound."

My Daily Pursuit

The Bible as a whole talks about angels, mentioning them 297 times. A few times, the word *angel* in our English Bible refers to a human messenger, for the word means "messenger," but the vast majority of times, it refers to a being from heaven. That being is usually large, powerful, immortal, holy, wise, and closely associated with God. Jesus our Lord said about angels that they do not marry and are not given in marriage. Neither can they die; so they are immortal, holy, and wise. They go back and forth doing the errands of the Almighty.

Preparing for Jesus' Return

I notice that in the Scriptures the angels are more active in times of crisis and less apparent in quieter times. Jehovah describes to Job the dawn of creation and asks, "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?" (Job 38:4). Even though Job was not there, the angels were. It was such a spectacular event that God continues, "When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" (38:7).

Preparing for Jesus' Return

When our Lord came into the world and was born of a woman, the angels were seen then; a great multitude of the heavenly host were praising God, and saying, “Glory to God in the highest” (Luke 2:14). Later on, when our Lord had risen from the dead, the angels were there again. When you get to the book of Revelation, and the crisis begins to churn, and gets tighter and fiercer, the angels appear seventy-five times in that one book.

Preparing for Jesus’ Return

The question I must pose is why modern evangelical Christians have little place for angels in their thinking. Everybody else talks about angels, usually in the wrong connotation, but modern-day Christians do not talk much about angels.

Preparing for Jesus’ Return

The Bible talks about angels, archangels, principalities, powers, might, and dominions. That tells us there are gradations, or lesser and greater authority. The idea that everybody is put in a sack and shaken up and all come out exactly alike is wrong.

Preparing for Jesus’ Return

In the New Jerusalem, only the redeemed will appreciate the musical strains directed toward the throne. Even the angels will stand in silent wonder as the redeemed sing to the Lamb the song of the soul set free.

Preparing for Jesus’ Return

The devil can come as an angel of light. So you have to learn to know an angel of light from an angel of God. You have to learn to know pseudo truth from truth.

Reclaiming Christianity

When the Lord lays His hand upon a man, that man ceases at once to be ordinary; he immediately becomes extraordinary; his life takes on cosmic significance; the angels in heaven take notice of him and go forth to become his ministers (Hebrews 1:14).

The Alliance Weekly/Witness, 1952

ANGER

Every deed done out of anger or spite, for instance, will be found at last to have been done for the enemy and against the kingdom of God.

The Alliance Weekly/Witness, 1953

It is doubtful whether any sin is ever committed until it first incubates in the thoughts long enough to stir the feelings and predispose the will toward it favorably. Even the sudden flash of anger, which of all sins would appear on the surface to have the lowest mental content, is anything but a sudden eruption of the emotions.

The Alliance Weekly/Witness, 1957

The instructed Christian knows that the wrath of God is a reality, that His anger is as holy as His love, and that between His love and His wrath there is no incompatibility.

The Alliance Weekly/Witness, 1960

AUTHORITY

No man has the authority to divide the truth and preach only a part of it. To do so is to weaken it and render it without effect.

The Alliance Weekly/Witness, 1950

Whether or not the Christian should separate himself from the world is not open to debate. The question has been settled for him by the sacred Scriptures, an authority from which there can be no appeal.

The Alliance Weekly/Witness, 1950

The true Christian will be loyal to his country and obedient to those in authority, but he will never fall into the error of confusing his own national culture with Christianity. Christianity is bigger than any country, loftier than any civilization, broader than any human ideology.

The Alliance Weekly/Witness, 1951

Without the remotest intention to accept the authority of Christ, many religious leaders nevertheless use His name as an attractive front to give them entry to the masses.

The Alliance Weekly/Witness, 1955

The average church has so established itself organizationally and financially that God is simply not necessary to it. So entrenched is its authority and so stable are the religious habits of its members that God could withdraw himself completely from it, as He once withdrew the Shekinah from the Temple, and it could run on for years on its own momentum.

The Alliance Weekly/Witness, 1957

Authority

Christians today have developed the perilous habit of accepting the authority of the New Testament on matters that do not concern them, and rejecting it on matters that do.

The Alliance Weekly/Witness, 1960

Except in cases where governments go over to the devil, as in prewar Germany and in Russia today, a follower of Christ will represent his Lord better by living a holy life within the law than he will by holding that law in contempt. And he will find in the common round of life all the opportunity he needs to prove that he is a true believer in Christ.

The Alliance Weekly/Witness, 1950