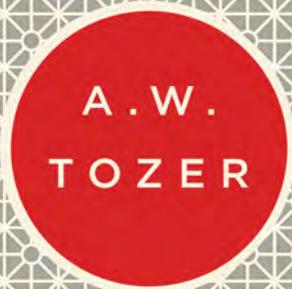


MY DAILY PURSUIT

DEVOTIONS FOR EVERY DAY

COMPILED AND EDITED BY JAMES L. SNYDER



A. W.
TOZER

My Daily Pursuit • A.W. Tozer, edited/compiled by James L. Snyder
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A.W. TOZER



BETHANYHOUSE

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Introduction

The great passion of A. W. Tozer, or maybe I should say obsession, was pursuing God on a daily basis. Nothing, neither family nor friends, was more important than his daily pursuit to be with God. The worship of God was the highest calling of Tozer's life.

During his ministry, Tozer was the keynote speaker at many Bible conferences. At one particular conference, the time came for the service to begin and Tozer had not arrived yet. Thinking he was just running a little late, the leader began the service believing Tozer would soon arrive. As the service progressed without any sign of Tozer, the leader became nervous. Finally, the time came for Tozer to begin his sermon but he was nowhere to be found. At the last moment, someone else filled in, much to the disappointment of the audience.

The next morning the leader found Tozer and asked him very simply where he was last night. "Why did you miss your appointment last night?"

Tozer, with a faraway look in his eyes, simply said, "I had a more important appointment last night." Later, that leader discovered Tozer had spent all night on his knees before God. The most important thing in his life was being in the presence of God.

Living in Chicago for most of his ministry, Tozer had a rather busy schedule with many people wanting his advice or prayer—people like Billy Graham and Senator Mark Hatfield, to name a few. Tozer had a unique way of eluding this disturbance when he needed to be alone with God. When he felt he was becoming a little stale, it was time to leave the world behind and be alone with God.

Early in the morning, he would board a westbound train, get in a Pullman car for privacy and ride for the next four hours. Sequestered in his Pullman car he spent the time on his face before God. No cell phones at the time, thankfully, and Tozer had absolute privacy to spend four hours alone with God without interruption. Once he arrived at his destination, he simply boarded an eastbound train returning to Chicago for another four hours alone with God. With an outspread

Bible on his knees, he quieted his heart before God and waited upon God to speak to him and refresh his spirit.

On a similar trip to Texas, Tozer wrote the first draft of the devotional classic, *The Pursuit of God*, which might explain the impact this book has had on Christianity at large. Pursuing God was not a matter of convenience for Tozer, but rather a matter of passion. Tozer could not start his day without spending quality time alone in the presence of God.

Often during these times, he would take a hymnal and begin his time alone with God by quietly singing a hymn. He simply marinated his soul in those great hymns of the church that he loved so much. Hymns were important in helping him express to God that which was deep in his own heart and soul. It would be a very unusual day for him not to meditate on some great hymn of the church.

Because of his passionate desire for God, Tozer was willing to commit to whatever it took to pursue God daily. This book, *My Daily Pursuit*, is a microcosm of Tozer's daily pursuit. Here you will find the components of his daily pursuit of God.

These devotions are taken from the audio sermons of Dr. Tozer and are not quotations from his published works. These represent what I like to refer to as, “conversational Tozer.” His preaching style was very conversational—as if he were talking to one person and baring the passion of his heart to that individual.

The one goal of this devotional is to stir up in the hearts of serious-minded Christians such a passion for God. My prayer is that Tozer will inspire you in your daily pursuit.

James L. Snyder

My Daily Pursuit



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— ❧ — January 1 — ❧ —

*For we have seen his star in the east,
and are come to worship him.*

MATTHEW 2:2

For the Christian, everything begins and ends with worship. Whatever interferes with one's personal worship of God needs to be properly dealt with and dismissed. Keep in mind that above all else, worship is an attitude, a state of mind and a sustained act. It is not a physical attitude, but an inward act of the heart toward God. The mighty bestowment of God Almighty upon us who trust in Him is that we might be worshipers. Unfortunately, we have become everything else but worshipers. Sin robs God of this pristine pleasure of worship from those created in His image. Through the miracle of the new birth our alienation with God has been done away with; and through His atonement we have become friends of God and have been brought back again into the sphere of worship.

Each day is a special call for all of us to worship God.

Awake, my soul, to joyful lays,
And sing thy great Redeemer's praise.

SAMUEL MEDLEY (1738-1799)

*My heavenly Father, I begin today in joyful worship.
Thou hast called me, and I answer Thee in praise and adoration.
In Jesus' name, amen.*

— ❧ — January 2 — ❧ —

*And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness
and of right praise all the day long.*

PSALM 35:28

Worship embodies a number of spiritual and emotional factors. Worship is to feel in the heart. I do not apologize for using the word “feel.” As Christians, we are not to be people without feelings. I certainly do not think we should follow our feelings alone, but I believe that if there is no feeling in our hearts, then we are dead.

Certainly, there is danger in relying only upon feelings.

If you woke up one morning with no feeling in your arm at all, you would call a doctor, because anything without feeling you can be quite sure is dead.

Real worship is, among other things, a feeling in the heart that is appropriately expressed. You can worship God in any manner appropriate to you by feeling in the heart and expressing that humbling but delightful sense of admiring love. Let your heart dictate your worship to the God you love, and who loves you.

Soon, the delightful day will come
When my dear Lord will bring me home,
And I shall see His face.

SAMUEL MEDLEY (1738-1799)

*Oh, come, dear Lord, and fill my heart with blessed desire for Thee.
I lift my heart anticipating the shining of Thy blessed face. Amen.*

— ❧ — February 1 — ❧ —

*I remember thy judgments of old, O Lord;
and have comforted myself.*

PSALM 119:52

Heresy abounds today, with people believing only what they want to believe. Heretics emphasize certain words or phrases so they can follow along and accept one while rejecting another; doing one thing but refusing another. Heretics are pickers and choosers among the Word of God.

The most dangerous aspect about heresy is that in many regards what they believe is right. It is not what one believes, but rather, it is what one refuses to believe that makes heretics very dangerous. If they were all bad, they would not have much influence in the evangelical church today.

What makes it worse is what they say you can accept and believe, and by doing that they suck you down a certain pathway and eventually lead you away from all the truth. It takes all the truth to make it God's Word. You cannot take only one slice of truth and disassociate it from the rest of the Bible.

Evangelicals need to be careful not to ride their favorite hobbyhorse while ignoring other things and compromising the power of God's Word.

O make Thy Church, dear Saviour,
A lamp of purest gold,
To bear before the nations
Thy true light, as of old,
O teach Thy wandering pilgrims
By this their path to trace,
Till, clouds and darkness ended,
They see Thee face to face. Amen.

WILLIAM W. HOW (1823-1897)

*Thy truth, O God, is my meat and drink each day.
My soul is ravished with hunger that only Thy Word can satiate.
In the blessed name of Jesus I pray, amen.*

—❧— February 2 —❧—

Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear.

PSALM 119:38

Ralph Waldo Emerson once walked across a field after a rain with the sun shining on the little puddles of water out over the meadow. Suddenly, his mind had been elevated to a place of such happiness that he was full of fear. He said he was so happy, he was afraid.

Emerson was simply a pagan poet; and a whole lot of worship going on these days is nothing but pagan poetry and nature worship.

Religion has a lot of poetry in it. I enjoy poetry if it is good poetry, but the problem is finding good poetry. Religion brings poetry out more than any other occupation the mind can be engaged in. And there is much that is very beautiful about religion. There is a high enjoyment in the contemplation of the divine and the sublime. The concentration of the mind upon truth always brings a high sense of enjoyment.

This is nature worship. Certainly, nature carries with it a sense of beauty and exhilaration. I enjoy getting out in nature and just having some quiet time. There's nothing wrong with that. The problem comes when people confuse nature worship with true worship.

Thy nature, gracious Lord, impart;
Come quickly from above,
Write Thy new name upon my heart,
Thy new, best name of Love.

CHARLES WESLEY (1707-1788)

*I come to Thee O Father, knowing that my true joy comes from Thee.
Thy presence is the great delight of my daily experience.
I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

—— March 1 ——

*The Lord has prepared his throne in the heavens;
and his kingdom rules over all. Bless the Lord, ye his Angels,
that excel in strength, that do his commandments,
hearkening unto the voice of his word.*

PSALM 103:19-20

Some argue and give themselves up to science; some give themselves up to technology, some to philosophy, some to the arts and some to music. When we worship the Lord Jesus Christ, we embrace and encompass all possible sciences and philosophies and arts.

He is the Lord of all life, so that He is the Lord of all essential possibilities of life. He is the Lord of all kinds of life. He is the Lord of the intellectual life, the life of imagination and reason. He is Lord over all these things.

We have spiritual life, and He is the Lord of that kind of life. He is the Lord of angels and the Lord of the cherubim and seraphim.

All deep eternal wisdom lies in Jesus Christ as a treasure hidden away, and there is not any kind of wisdom outside of Him. All the deep eternal purposes of God are in Him, because His perfect wisdom enables Him to plan ahead, and all history is the slow development of His purposes.

Though He giveth or He taketh,
God His children ne'er forsaketh,
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy.

CAROLINA V. SANDELL BERG (1832-1903)

*Dear heavenly Father, my life rests securely in Thy hand.
Thy provision goes far beyond my ability to comprehend.
I thank Thee for what Thou doest in my life.
In Jesus' name, amen.*

— ❧ — March 2 — ❧ —

*For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.
So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth,
but of God that showeth mercy.*

ROMANS 9:15-16

There is no book you can read about Christian ethics or any other kind of ethics, which is another way of saying righteousness, that God does not already know and that He is not already Lord of.

In the Old Testament, when the high priest went into the holy of holies to offer sacrifices once a year, he wore a miter on his forehead. On that miter was engraved in Hebrew the words, “Holiness unto the Lord.” This Jesus Christ our Lord is Lord of holiness and righteousness in every degree.

He is Lord of all mercy, for He establishes His kingdom upon rebels, of whom He first has to redeem and win, and renew a right spirit within them. He renews these rebels and makes them righteous and gives them the right spirit because He is the Lord of all mercy, and He is the Lord of all power, and He is the Lord of all deity.

Only this kind of Lord can do this kind of thing. Nothing stands in His way of accomplishing His purposes. The devil, in all of his hellish glory, cannot in one measure diminish the purpose of God.

Near the cross, a trembling soul,
Love and mercy found me;
There the bright and Morning Star
Shed its beams around me.

FANNY J. CROSBY (1820-1915)

*Dear Lord Jesus, when Thee found me, I was a rebel going in
the wrong direction. Praise Thy name, Thee not only found me,
but Thee turned my life around, and now I face heaven's light. Amen.*