

# Youth Group Devotionals

## A.W. Tozer Series

*“What I believe about God is the most important thing about me.”*

A.W. Tozer, a modern day prophet, was a key figure in The Christian and Missionary Alliance. His legacy reaches through time and has impacted countless millions. A prolific author and pastor, Tozer was known for his emphasis on the deeper life movement.

Among the more than forty books Tozer authored, at least two are regarded as Christian classics: *The Pursuit of God* and *The Knowledge of the Holy*. His writings impress on the reader the necessity to abandon worldly comforts in favor the deeper life that comes with following Christ.

This begins a series of devotionals from a famous Christian author – A.W. Tozer. These devotionals can also be found on the C&MA website. They are profound and challenging and I truly hope they will guide us into closer walks with Christ that leads to godly character and living.

Sincerely, the Devo-writing committee ☺

## POSTPONING OBEDIENCE

A notable heresy has come into being throughout our evangelical Christian circle-the widely accepted concept that we humans can choose to accept Christ only because we need Him as Savior, and that we have the right to postpone our obedience to Him as long as we want to! The truth is that salvation apart from obedience is unknown in the sacred Scriptures. Peter makes it plain that we are "elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit unto obedience." It seems most important to me that Peter speaks of his fellow Christians as "obedient children." He knew their spirituality-he was not just giving them an exhortation to be obedient. The entire Bible teaches that true obedience to God and His Christ is one of the toughest requirements in the Christian life. Actually, salvation without obedience is a self-contradicting impossibility! Humans do not want to admit it, but the Apostle Paul wrote to the Romans long ago that "by one man's disobedience" came the downfall of the human race!

### Verse

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. *Acts 16:31*

### Thought

The entire Bible teaches that true obedience to God and His Christ is one of the toughest requirements in the Christian life.

### Prayer

Lord, let me always remember that obedience to your will is not just sanctioned, but mandatory.

## HUMANS JUDGE THE LORD?

It is a fact that God made us to worship Him, and if we had not fallen with Adam and Eve, worship would have been the most natural thing for us. Sinning was not the natural thing for Adam and Eve, but they disobeyed and fell, losing their privilege of perfect fellowship with God, the Creator. Sin is the unnatural thing; it was never intended by God to be our nature. Men and women who are out of fellowship with God, the Creator, still have an instinct towards some practice of worship. In most of our "civilized" circles, the practice of picking out what we like to worship and rejecting what we do not like is widespread. This has opened up an entire new field for applied psychology and humanism under a variety of religious disguises. Thus men and women set themselves as judges of what the Lord has said-and so they stand with pride and judge the Lord. In the Bible, God takes the matter of worship out of the hands of men and puts it in the hands of the Holy Spirit. It is impossible to worship God without the impartation of the Holy Spirit!

### Verse

But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. *Matthew 15:9*

### Thought

In the Bible, God takes the matter of worship out of the hands of men and puts it in the hands of the Holy Spirit.

### Prayer

Lord, thank you for the fact that you have given me the Holy Spirit so that I can worship you in spirit and in truth.

## **CHEAP RELIGION**

What passes for Christianity in our day is cheap religion! To listen to the current concepts of Christianity, we would conclude it is little more than bits of beautiful poetry, a man-made bouquet of fragrant flowers, a kindly smile for our neighbor and a couple of good deeds on behalf of a brother or sister. When I consider some of the elements now offered in Christianity as acceptable religion, I have to restrain myself lest I speak too disapprovingly. I fear my words would be so strong that I would have to repent of them! And I read in the Scriptures that there are some things God does not want us to say even about the devil. What do we find surfacing in much of our Christian fellowship? The complaint that God takes a long time to work out His will. We do not want to take the time to plow and cultivate. We want the fruit and the harvest right away. We do not want to be engaged in any spiritual battle that takes us into the long night. We want the morning light right now! We do not want the cross—we are more interested in the crown!

### **Verse**

Neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing.  
*2 Samuel 24:24*

### **Thought**

We want the fruit and the harvest right away. We do not want to be engaged in any spiritual battle that takes us into the long night.

### **Prayer**

Lord, Thank you for the reminder that I have a job to do, and I pray for the grace to complete it.

## **BROTHERHOOD OF THE REDEEMED**

Anyone making even a quick review of Genesis will discover that God has told us more about His presence in creation and in history than about the details of human civilization. We believe that eternity dwells in the Person of God and that the material universe came into being through God's creation. The first man and woman in the human race were created. They failed in their initial encounter with Satan, our archenemy. Following that, the Genesis record becomes a narrative of human failure against the abiding backdrop of God's faithfulness. God Himself, through the Holy Spirit, points out a universal problem: the natural brotherhood of human beings is a sinful brotherhood. It is the brotherhood of all who are spiritually lost. But the Bible has good news. It is the revelation of a new brotherhood, the brotherhood of the redeemed! We know it in our time as the believing church of our Lord Jesus Christ in all nations. It is a new brotherhood among men based on regeneration-and restoration!

### **Verse**

To them gave he power to become the sons of God. *John 1:12*

### **Thought**

We believe that eternity dwells in the Person of God and that the material universe came into being through God's creation.

### **Prayer**

Lord, thank for taking me from the brotherhood of the lost to the brotherhood of the redeemed.

## **GOD IS ON OUR SIDE**

It was a gracious revelation to my human spirit when I discovered that the Word of God was actually on my side, operating in my behalf! I was reading Psalm 71 and I came to this amazing statement: "Thou hast given commandment to save me!" My heart has been warmed with that realization ever since. I believe that the Word of the living God has gone throughout all the earth to save me and keep me! Let the theological experts raise their eyebrow -- I do not care! The living Word has charged Himself with responsibility to forgive, to cleanse and to keep me! Let us not be guilty of under rating the Word of God operating on our behalf I dare to say that there is not an uncontrolled stroke or force anywhere in all of God's mighty universe that can take eternal life away from a trusting, believing, obedient child of God. Let us thank God for the Word! It is living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword!

### **Verse**

Let them be confounded and consumed that are adversaries to my soul. *Psalm 71:13*

### **Thought**

I dare to say that there is not an uncontrolled stroke or force anywhere in all of God's mighty universe that can take eternal life away from a trusting, believing, obedient child of God.

### **Prayer**

Lord, thank you for being infinitely more constant than any foe I could ever face.