

aw tozer the knowledge of the holy

A.W. Tozer: The Knowledge of the Holy is a profound exploration of the attributes of God, penned by one of the most influential Christian authors of the 20th century. Tozer's work emphasizes the importance of understanding God's nature and character as foundational to a believer's relationship with Him. This book addresses the spiritual malaise that Tozer perceived in contemporary Christianity, calling for a deeper, more reverent knowledge of the divine.

About A.W. Tozer

Aiden Wilson Tozer, commonly known as A.W. Tozer, was born on April 21, 1897, in La Jose, Pennsylvania. He was a pastor, writer, and spiritual mentor whose works have inspired countless Christians to seek a more intimate relationship with God. Tozer didn't have formal theological training; instead, he was largely self-taught through reading and personal study.

Tozer's Early Life and Ministry

- Background: Tozer grew up in a poor family and accepted Christ at the age of 17 during a street revival.
- Career: He became a pastor in the Christian and Missionary Alliance denomination and eventually served as the pastor of the Southside Alliance Church in Chicago.
- Legacy: Throughout his life, Tozer wrote more than 40 books, with "The Knowledge of the Holy" being among the most prominent.

The Premise of "The Knowledge of the Holy"

Tozer's "The Knowledge of the Holy" was first published in 1961 and has since become a classic in Christian literature. The book is a theological treatise that invites readers to contemplate the grandeur and holiness of God. It is structured in a series of chapters that focus on individual attributes of God, exploring each in depth.

Purpose of the Book

The primary aim of "The Knowledge of the Holy" is to:

1. Encourage Worship: Tozer believes that a proper understanding of God leads to authentic worship.
2. Promote Holiness: By understanding God's character, believers are called to reflect that holiness in their lives.
3. Combat Spiritual Ignorance: Tozer addresses what he sees as a lack of true knowledge about God in contemporary Christianity.

Key Themes

Several central themes run throughout the book:

- God's Sovereignty: Tozer emphasizes that God is fully in control of all creation.
- God's Love and Justice: He tackles the balance between God's love and His perfect justice, urging readers to see both as facets of God's character.
- The Nature of Faith: Tozer discusses the importance of faith and how it is rooted in a knowledge of God.

The Attributes of God

Tozer meticulously examines various attributes of God, dedicating a chapter to each. Below are some key attributes he highlights:

1. The Independence of God

Tozer articulates that God is self-sufficient and does not rely on anything outside Himself to exist. This independence means that God's will is not influenced by the actions or thoughts of His creation.

2. The Unchangeableness of God

God's nature does not change over time. Tozer emphasizes that this attribute provides believers with assurance in an ever-changing world.

3. The Holiness of God

Tozer asserts that God's holiness is the most important of His attributes. He writes that God's holiness is not merely a characteristic but the essence of His nature.

4. The Love of God

In contrast to His holiness, Tozer discusses God's love as an expression of His nature. He argues that true love is always aligned with God's holiness and justice.

5. The Omniscience of God

Tozer points out that God's knowledge encompasses all things. He knows the past, present, and future and understands the thoughts and intentions of every human heart.

The Importance of Knowing God

Tozer argues that the knowledge of God is not merely academic; it is profoundly relational. Here are several reasons why understanding God is crucial:

1. Transformation of Life

- Understanding God leads to personal transformation.
- It shapes character and influences behavior.

2. Deepening of Faith

- A deeper knowledge of God strengthens faith amidst trials.
- Believers are more equipped to face challenges when grounded in the truth of God's nature.

3. Motivation for Worship

- True worship arises from a recognition of who God is.
- Worship becomes a natural response to understanding God's majesty and love.

4. Foundation for Theology

- A proper understanding of God is the bedrock of sound theology.
- It helps discern true teaching from falsehood.

Challenges in Contemporary Christianity

Tozer wrote "The Knowledge of the Holy" at a time when he observed a growing trend of superficiality in Christian thought and practice. He warned against various challenges:

1. Spiritual Apathy

Many believers were content with a shallow understanding of God, focusing more on personal experience than on theological truth.

2. Materialism

Tozer criticized the materialistic culture that distracted Christians from a sincere pursuit of God.

3. False Views of God

He highlighted the dangers of creating a God in our own image, one that fits our desires rather than one that is revealed in Scripture.

Conclusion

The Knowledge of the Holy is not just a book; it is a call to deeper reflection, reverence, and relationship with God. A.W. Tozer's insights challenge believers to rise above cultural distractions and to pursue a profound understanding of God's character. In an era where many settle for a diluted version of faith, Tozer's work serves as a reminder that knowing God intimately is essential for authentic worship and living a life that reflects His glory.

In essence, Tozer's message is timeless—inviting each of us to engage with the divine, to know Him as He truly is, and to live in response to that knowledge. Through his work, Tozer encourages believers to strive for a deeper, more meaningful relationship with the Almighty, which is foundational for genuine faith and discipleship.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the central theme of A.W. Tozer's 'The Knowledge of the Holy'?

The central theme of 'The Knowledge of the Holy' is to explore the attributes of God and to emphasize the importance of understanding God's nature for a deeper spiritual life.

How does A.W. Tozer describe the importance of knowing God in 'The Knowledge of the Holy'?

Tozer argues that knowing God is foundational to the Christian faith, as it shapes our beliefs, values, and behavior. He emphasizes that a proper understanding of God's attributes leads to a more profound worship and relationship with Him.

What are some key attributes of God discussed in 'The Knowledge of the Holy'?

Tozer discusses several key attributes of God, including His holiness, sovereignty, omniscience, omnipotence, and love, each illustrating different aspects of His character and how they impact

believers.

How does Tozer approach the concept of God's holiness?

Tozer emphasizes that God's holiness is His defining attribute, setting Him apart from all creation. He explains that understanding God's holiness is crucial for recognizing our own sinfulness and the need for redemption.

What impact has 'The Knowledge of the Holy' had on modern Christian thought?

The book has significantly influenced modern Christian thought by encouraging believers to seek a deeper understanding of God, leading to a more intentional and heartfelt approach to worship and discipleship.

What is Tozer's view on the relationship between knowledge of God and spiritual transformation?

Tozer posits that true knowledge of God leads to spiritual transformation, as it inspires believers to live in accordance with God's will and reflects His character in their daily lives.

How does Tozer's writing style in 'The Knowledge of the Holy' contribute to its message?

Tozer's poetic and contemplative writing style invites readers to meditate on the attributes of God, making complex theological concepts accessible and encouraging a reflective approach to understanding God.

Why is 'The Knowledge of the Holy' considered a classic in Christian literature?

It is considered a classic due to its profound insights into the nature of God, its timeless relevance, and its ability to inspire readers to pursue a deeper relationship with God through knowledge and worship.

What are some practical applications of the teachings in 'The Knowledge of the Holy' for believers today?

Believers can apply Tozer's teachings by prioritizing personal study of God's attributes, engaging in thoughtful worship, and allowing their understanding of God to shape their ethical decisions and relationships with others.

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