

Daily Devotionals  
January 2011

A.W. Tozer "A 20<sup>th</sup> century prophet" they called him even in his own lifetime. For 31 years he was pastor of Southside Alliance Church in Chicago, where his reputation as a man of God was citywide. Concurrently, he became editor of *Alliance Life*, a responsibility he fulfilled until his death in 1963. His greatest legacy to the Christian world has been more than 40 books, including this one.

Charles Hadden Spurgeon (1834-1892) began his career as a minister at the age of 19. His excellent sermons soon drew thousands to his church every Sunday morning. These sermons were transcribed and printed throughout England and in many major U.S. newspapers. His devotional Morning and Evening is a series of two new devotional readings for each day of the year, to be read and meditated on every morning and evening.

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Monday

January 10

Longing After God

A. W. Tozer – *Tozer on Christian Leadership: A 366-Day Devotional*

Exodus 33:13 (NASB)

"Now therefore, I pray You, if I have found favor in Your sight, let me know Your ways that I may know You, so that I may find favor in Your sight."

Come near to the holy men and women of the past and you will soon feel the heat of their desire after God. They mourned for Him, they prayed and wrestled and sought for Him day and night, in season and out, and when they had found Him the finding was all the sweeter for the long seeking.

Moses used the fact that he knew God as an argument for knowing Him better. "Now therefore, I pray You, if I have found favor in Your sight, let me know Your ways that I may know You, so that I may find favor in Your sight." ([Exodus 33:13](#)); and from there he rose to make the daring request, "I pray You, show me Your glory!" ([Exodus 33:18](#)). God was frankly pleased by this display of ardor, and the next day called Moses into the mount, and there in solemn procession made all His glory pass before him.

*Father, restore to us today this deep longing I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

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Tuesday

January 11

Alone with God

A. W. Tozer – *Tozer on Christian Leadership: A 366-Day Devotional*

John 6:15 (NASB)

So Jesus ... withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.

Just prior to [His] miraculous multiplying of the bread and fish, Jesus "withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone" ([John 6:15](#)). That fact is noteworthy. It seems plain that Jesus withdrew purposely from the great press of people who had been pursuing Him.

There are some things that you and I will never learn when others are present. I believe in church and I love the fellowship of the assembly. There is much we can learn when we come together on Sundays and sit among the saints. But there are certain things that you and I will never learn in the presence of other people.

Unquestionably, part of our failure today is religious activity that is not preceded by aloneness, by inactivity. I mean getting alone with God and waiting in silence and quietness until we are charged with God's Spirit. Then, when we act, our activity really amounts to something because we have been prepared and directed by God for it.

Now, in the case of our Lord, the people came to Him, John reports, and He was ready for them. He had been quiet and silent. Looking upward, He waited until the whole hiatus of divine life moved down from the throne of God into His own soul.

*Lord, I come in quietness and silence to wait for You to fill me. Amen*

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Wednesday

January 12

Satan – Imprisons You in Fear?

A. W. Tozer – *Renewed Day by Day: Volume 1*

1 John 3:8 (NASB)

The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

It is part of the devil's business to keep the Christian's spirit imprisoned. He knows that the believing and justified Christian has been raised up out of the grave of his sins and trespasses. From that point on, Satan works that much harder to keep us bound and gagged, actually imprisoned in our own grave clothes!

He knows that if we continue in this kind of bondage we will never be able to claim our rightful spiritual heritage. He knows also that while we continue bound in this kind of enslavement we are not much better off than when we were spiritually dead.

This is one reason why the Christians in today's churches are behaving like a flock of frightened sheep—so intimidated by the devil that we can't even say "Amen!"

I am sure that it is not glorifying to our God that Christians should be so intimidated and silenced in our day. It was Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, who came down and took our human body for Himself. He was a man, born of a woman, a man wearing our own nature—but He was also God!

He went out to the cross and they sacrificed Him there. The Father, God Almighty, accepted His sacrifice as the one, final fulfillment and consummation of all the sacrifices ever made on Jewish altars. After three days, He came out of the grave, then ascended as Victor over death and hell!

Believing this, we ought to be the most fearless, the happiest and most God-assured people in the whole world!

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Friday

January 14

A Bush with No Fire

A. W. Tozer – *Tozer on the Holy Spirit,*

John 4:23 (NASB)

"But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

Whatever direction the theological wind may set there are two things of which we may be certain: One is that God will not leave Himself without a witness....Saving truth will never be completely hidden from the sight of men. The poor in spirit, the penitent, will always find Christ close at hand ready to save them.

The other is that the Holy Spirit is the true conservator of orthodoxy and will invariably say the same thing to meek and trusting souls. Illuminated hearts are sure to agree at the point where the light falls.

Our only real danger is that we may grieve the blessed Spirit into silence and so be left to the mercy of our intellects....We'll have the bush, pruned and trimmed and properly cultivated, but in the bush there will be no fire.

*Mere wisdom...[makes] us hard and cold, but wisdom set on fire with love and energized by power [through the Holy Spirit] will enable us to bless the world.*

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Saturday

January 15

Less than the Best

A. W. Tozer – *Tozer on the Almighty God: A 366-Day Devotional*

Matthew 5:6 (NASB)

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

It is disheartening to those who care, and surely a great grief to the Spirit, to see how many Christians are content to settle for less than the best. Personally I have for years carried a burden of sorrow as I have moved among evangelical Christians who somewhere in their past have managed to strike a base compromise with their heart's holier longings and have settled down to a lukewarm, mediocre kind of Christianity utterly unworthy of themselves and of the Lord they claim to serve. And such are found everywhere.

Every man is as close to God as he wants to be; he is as holy and as full of the Spirit as he wills to be. Our Lord said, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." If there were but one man anywhere on earth who hungered and was not filled, the word of Christ would fall to the ground.

Yet we must distinguish wanting from wishing. By "want" I mean wholehearted desire. Certainly there are many who wish they were holy or victorious or joyful but are not willing to meet God's conditions to obtain it.

*Lord, may I settle for nothing less than the best when it comes to my relationship with You. Give me a wholehearted thirst for You, that I may partake of the incredible privilege of intimate fellowship with You. Amen.*

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Sunday

January 16

We Must Meet God

A. W. Tozer – *Tozer on the Almighty God: A 366-Day Devotional*

Ezekiel 1:1 (NASB)

Now it came about in the thirtieth year, on the fifth *day* of the fourth month, while I was by the river Chebar among the exiles, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God.

Sometimes preachers get carried away and start sermonizing on the great calamities posed by communism and secularism and materialism. But our greatest calamity is the closed heaven, the silent heaven. God meant for us to be in fellowship with Him. When the heavens are closed, men are left to themselves. They are without God.

Ezekiel and all the rest of God's faithful servants learned something that we must learn. If there is anything worth having, it will have to be something that we get from God Himself. The heavens have been closed since mankind began reasoning God out of our world. What used to be the hand and providence of God is now just natural law.

But in the Christian faith it is imperative that the individual meet God. We are not talking about just the possibility of meeting God. We are not saying just that it would be a good thing to meet God. *Meeting God is imperative!*

*Lord, deliver me from Your absence today; open the doors of heaven and bestow upon me Your presence. May this be imperative in my life, both now and always. Amen.*

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Monday

January 17

God's Grace Cannot Be Extinguished

A. W. Tozer – *Renewed Day by Day: Volume 1*

1 Timothy 1:14 (NASB)

and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are *found* in Christ Jesus. Brethren, we should be keenly aware that the living God can no more hide His grace than the sun can hide its brightness!

We must keep in mind that the grace of God is infinite and eternal. Being an attribute of God, it is as boundless as infinitude!

The Old Testament is indeed a book of law, but not of law only. Before the great flood Noah "found grace in the eyes of the Lord" (Gen. 6:8), and after the law was given God said to Moses, "Thou hast found grace in my sight" (Ex. 33:17)

There never was a time when the law did not represent the will of God for mankind nor a time when the violation of it did not bring its own penalty, though God was patient and sometimes "winked" at wrongdoing because of the ignorance of the people.

The great source and spring of Christian morality is the love of Christ Himself (John 14:15), not the law of Moses; nevertheless there has been no abrogation of the principles of morality contained in the law. The grace of God made sainthood possible in Old Testament days just as it does today!

God has promised that He will always be Himself. Men may flee from the sunlight to dark and musty caves of the earth, but they cannot put out the sun. So men may in any dispensation despise the grace of God, but they cannot extinguish it!

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Tuesday

January 18

Do Not Fear I Will Help You!

Charles Hadden Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening*

Isaiah 41:10 (NASB)

'Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

This morning let us hear the Lord Jesus speak to each one of us: "I will *help* you." "It is but a small thing for Me, thy God, to *help* you. Consider what I have done already. What! Not help you? Why, I bought you with My blood. What! Not help you? I have died for you; and if I have done the greater, will I not do the less?"

*Help* you! It is the least thing I will ever do for you; I *have* done more, and will do more. Before the world began I chose you. I made the covenant for you. I laid aside My glory and became a man for you; I gave up My life for you; and if I did all this, I will surely help you now. In helping you, I am giving you what I have bought for you already. If you had need of a thousand times as much help, I would give it to you; you require little compared with what I am ready to give. 'It is much for you to need, but it is nothing for me to bestow. *'Help* you?' Fear not! If there were an ant at the door of your granary asking for help, it would not ruin you to give him a handful of your wheat; and you are nothing but a tiny insect at the door of My all-sufficiency. 'I will help you.'"

O my soul, is not this enough? Do you need more strength than the omnipotence of the United Trinity? Do you want more wisdom than exists in the Father, more love than displays itself in the Son, or more power than is manifest in the influences of the Spirit? Bring here your empty pitcher! Surely this well will fill it. Hurry, gather up your wants, and bring them here—your emptiness, your woes, your needs. Behold, this river of God is full for your supply; what can you desire beside? Go forth, my soul, in this your strength. The Eternal God is your helper!

Isaiah 41:13 (NASB)

"For I am the LORD your God, who upholds your right hand, Who says to you, 'Do not fear, I will help you.'"

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Wednesday

January 19

Men of Vision

A. W. Tozer – *Tozer on the Holy Spirit*

John 1:32 (NASB)

John testified saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him.

John the Baptist possessed ... the right kind of vision, a true spiritual discernment. He could see things as they were.

The Holy Spirit came like a dove, descended like a dove, putting down His pink feet and disappearing into the heart of the Son of God.

I wonder out of all those crowds who saw the Holy Ghost come? Only John the Baptist. I do not think anyone else had the kind of vision that was necessary to see Him.

John the Baptist was a man of vision in the midst of men who had no vision. He knew where he was in his times. The drift of the hour or the trend of the times in religion would never carry him away.

*To serve the present age,  
My calling to fulfill—  
Oh, may it all my powers engage  
To do my Master's will.*

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Thursday

January 20

David – Mighty Man of God

A. W. Tozer – *Tozer on the Almighty God: A 366-Day Devotional*

Psalms 84:2 (TEV)

How I want to be there! I long to be in the LORD'S Temple. With my whole being I sing for joy to the living God.

Perhaps David's greatness and his significance for mankind lies in his complete preoccupation with God. He was a Jew, steeped in the Levitical tradition, but he never got lost in the forms of religion. "I have set the LORD always before me" ([Psalm 16:8](#)), he said once and again he said, or rather cried, for his words rise from within like a cry,

Psalms 42:2 (AMP)

My inner self thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?

David was acutely God-conscious. To him God was the one Being worth knowing. Where others saw nature he saw God. He was a nature poet indeed, but he saw God first and loved nature for God's sake. Wordsworth reversed the order and, while he is great, he is not worthy to untie the shoelaces of the man David.

David was also a God-possessed man. He threw himself at the feet of God and demanded to be conquered, and Jehovah responded by taking over his personality and shaping it as a potter shapes the clay.

Because he was God-possessed he could be God-taught.

He sent his heart to school to the Most High God, and soon he knew Him with an immediacy of knowing more wonderful than is dreamed of in our philosophies.

*Lord, may I be as God-possessed as David. Give me a heart that cries out to You; then teach me and enable me to know You with immediacy and intimacy. Amen.*

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Friday

January 21

Christ – As He Really Is

A. W. Tozer – *Mornings with Tozer*

Revelation 1:13, 16 (NASB)

*I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash...In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.*

The Christian message has ceased to be a pronouncement and has become instead a proposition. Scarcely anyone catches the imperious note in the words spoken by Jesus Christ.

The invitational element of the Christian message has been pressed far out of proportion in the total scriptural scene. Christ with His lantern, His apologetic stance and His weak pleading face has taken the place of the true Son of Man whom John saw—His eyes as a flame of fire, His feet like burnished brass and His voice as the sound of many waters.

Only the Holy Spirit can reveal our Lord as He really is, and He does not paint in oils. He manifests Christ to the human spirit, not to our physical eyes.

These are strenuous times, and men and women are being recruited to devote themselves to one or another master. But anything short of complete devotion to Christ is inadequate and must end in futility and loss.

*Lord, help me to see You as You truly are—mighty, righteous, just, and holy.*

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Saturday

January 22

Oh God – Be Exalted in My Life

A. W. Tozer – *Tozer on Christian Leadership: A 366-Day Devotional*

2 Samuel 22:47 (NASB)

"The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock; And exalted be God, the rock of my salvation,

Oh God, be exalted over my possessions. Nothing of earth's treasures shall seem dear unto me if only You are glorified in my life.

Oh God be exalted over my friendships. I am determined that You shall be above all, though I must stand deserted and alone in the midst of the earth.

Oh God be exalted above my comforts. Though it may mean the loss of bodily comforts and the carrying of heavy crosses, I shall keep my vow made this day before You.

Oh God be exalted over my reputation. Make me ambitious to please only You, even if as a result I must sink into obscurity and my name be forgotten as a dream.

Rise, O Lord, into Your proper place of honor, above my ambitions, above my likes and dislikes, above my family, my health and even my life itself. Let me sink that You may rise above all in my life. Ride forth upon me as You did ride into Jerusalem mounted upon the humble little beast, a colt, the foal of an ass, and let me hear the children cry to You, "Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!"

*Oh God, be exalted in my life. Amen.*

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Sunday

January 23

Light without Sight

A. W. Tozer – *Tozer on the Holy Spirit*

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NASB)

...the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Satan has no fear of the light as long as he can keep his victims sightless. The uncomprehending mind is unaffected by truth. The intellect of the hearer may grasp saving knowledge while yet the heart makes no moral response to it.

A classic example of this is seen in the story of Benjamin Franklin and George Whitefield. Whitefield talked with Franklin personally about his need of Christ and promised to pray for him. Years later Franklin wrote rather sadly that the evangelist's prayers must not have done any good, for he was still unconverted.

No one could doubt the intellectual brilliance of Franklin and certainly Whitefield preached the whole truth; yet nothing came of it. Why? The only answer is that Franklin had light without sight. He never saw the Light of the World. The gospel is light but only the Spirit can give sight.

*True faith is not believing in words merely, even divine words, but believing ON the Lord Jesus Christ.*

John 12:46 (NASB)

"I have come *as* Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness."

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Monday

January 24

Depending on God's Provision

A. W. Tozer – *Tozer on Christian Leadership: A 366-Day Devotional*

1 Kings 17:4 (NASB)

"It shall be that you will drink of the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to provide for you there."

We can learn important lessons by considering God's disciplines in dealing with Elijah.

As Elijah fled to the wilderness following his first confrontation with King Ahab, God said to him, "Elijah, go to the brook Cherith, and I will feed you there." God sent big, black buzzards—ravens, scavenger birds—each morning and evening with Elijah's meals. What humiliation! All his life Elijah had been self-sufficient. Now he waited on scavenger birds to deliver him his daily bread.

Elijah was like so many faithful preachers of the Word who are too true and too uncompromising for their congregations. "We don't have to take that," the people protest. And they stop contributing to the church, and some even leave it.

More than one pastor knows the meaning of economic strangulation. Preach the truth, and the brook dries up and people leave! But the Lord knows how to deal with each of us in our humiliations. He takes us from truth to truth.

*Lord, I commit myself anew today to never compromise the truth, no matter what the cost; even if it costs me my job. Amen.*

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Tuesday

January 25

You Are – What You Think About

A. W. Tozer – *Tozer on Christian Leadership: A 366-Day Devotional*

Proverbs 4:23 (TEV)

Be careful how you think; your life is shaped by your thoughts.

Every person is really what he or she secretly admires. If I can learn what you admire, I will know what you are, for people are what they think about when they are free to think about what they will.

Now, there are times when we are forced to think about things that we do not care to think about at all. All of us have to think about income taxes, but income taxes are not what we want to think about. The law makes us think about them every April. You may find me humped over Form 1040, just like everyone else, but that is not the real me. It is really the man with the tall hat and the spangled stars in Washington who says, "You can't let it go any longer!" I assure you it is not consentingly done! But if you can find what I think about when I am free to think about whatever I will, you will find the real me. That is true of every one of us.

Your baptism and your confirmation and your name on the church roll and the big Bible you carry—these are not the things that are important to God. You can train a chimpanzee to carry a Bible. Every one of us is the sum of what we secretly admire, what we think about and what we would like to do most if we became free to do what we wanted to do.

*Lord, may the secret thoughts of my heart be pure thoughts, pleasing to You, completely under the control of Your Holy Spirit. Amen.*

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Wednesday

January 26

Your Heart and Thoughts – A Sanctuary

A. W. Tozer – *Tozer on Christian Leadership: A 366-Day Devotional*

Isaiah 57:15 (TEV)

"I am the high and holy God, who lives forever. I live in a high and holy place, but I also live with people who are humble and repentant, so that I can restore their confidence and hope."

I have been thinking recently about how important my thoughts are.

I don't have to *do* wrong to get under blistering conviction and repent. I can lose the fellowship of God and sense of His presence and a sense of spirituality by just *thinking* wrong. God has been saying to me, "I dwell in your heart and thoughts. Make them a sanctuary in which I can dwell. See to it."



You can control your thoughts. It's by purifying your heart through confession (Ps. 51:1-2) "for from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts" (Mark 7:21).

Your theology is your foundation. The superstructure is your spiritual experience built on that foundation. But the high bell towers where the carillons are—those are your thoughts. And if you keep your heart pure, then your thoughts will be pure and you may hear the chimes ringing out "Holy, Holy, Holy" on the morning air.

Make your heart and thoughts a sanctuary God can inhabit, and don't let any of the rest of your life dishonor God.

See to it that not a foot of ground is unholy. See to it that every hour and every place is given over to God, and you will worship Him and He will accept it.

*Oh my heavenly Father, may my thoughts be a sanctuary, where You can dwell comfortably. Amen.*

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Thursday

January 27

Mere Words – Nourish the Soul?

A. W. Tozer - Tozer on the Almighty God: A 366-Day Devotional

Psalms 119:130 (TEV)

The explanation of your teachings gives light and brings wisdom to the ignorant.

Thanks to our splendid Bible societies and to other effective agencies for the dissemination of the Word, there are today many millions of people who hold "right opinions," probably more than ever before in the history of the Church. Yet I wonder if there was ever a time when true spiritual worship was at a lower ebb.

Sound Bible exposition is an imperative *must* in the Church of the Living God. Without it no church can be a New Testament church in any strict meaning of that term.

But exposition may be carried on in such a way as to leave the hearers devoid of any true spiritual nourishment whatever. For it is not mere words that nourish the soul, but God Himself, and unless and until the hearers find God in personal experience they are not the better for having heard the truth.

The Bible is not an end in itself, but a means to bring men to an intimate and satisfying knowledge of God, that they may enter into Him, that they may delight in His Presence, may taste and know the inner sweetness of the very God Himself in the core and center of their hearts.

*Lord, as I study Your Word may I not merely read the words on the page but personally experience their truths, that I may know You and genuinely delight in Your presence. Amen.*

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Friday

January 28

Your Spiritual Progress Retarded?

A. W. Tozer – Tozer on the Almighty God: A 366-Day Devotional.

Psalms 119:15-17 (NLT)

<sup>15</sup> I will study your commandments and reflect on your ways. I will delight in your decrees and not forget your word. Be good to your servant, that I may live and obey your word.

Probably the most widespread and persistent problem to be found among Christians is the problem of retarded spiritual progress. Why, after years of Christian profession, do so many persons find themselves no farther along than when they first believed?

The causes of retarded growth are many. It would not be accurate to ascribe the trouble to one single fault. One there is, however, which is so universal that it may easily be the main cause: *failure to give time to the cultivation of the knowledge of God.*

The Christian is strong or weak depending upon how closely he has cultivated the knowledge of God.

Progress in the Christian life is exactly equal to the growing knowledge we gain of the Triune God in personal experience. And such experience requires a whole life devoted to it and plenty of time spent at the holy task of cultivating God. God can be known satisfactorily only as we devote time to Him.

The true believer will be marked by such an attentive spirit, which will find a way to be in Scripture regularly, not for the purpose of filling an allotted devotional time but to grow in the knowledge, understanding, and love of the truth—and through and above that, to grow in the knowledge, understanding, and love of the Lord Himself. He will be eager to attend Bible preaching and study, so that his heart and mind can again be exposed to God's truth. He will be eager on the Lord's Day to fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ and to worship Him.

*In a busy life, Lord, it's so easy to neglect the important time we need to cultivate our knowledge of You. I devote myself to furthering my spiritual progress by seeking knowledge of You. Amen.*

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Saturday  
January 29

A. W. Tozer –

Repeat last weeks devotional

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Sunday  
January 30  
The Humble Man Says: "The Mistakes are Mine"  
A. W. Tozer – Renewed Day by Day: Volume 1.

Matthew 11:29 (NASB)

"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS."

A page in church history reveals that the godly Macarius of Optino was once told that his spiritual counsel had been helpful.

"This cannot be," Macarius wrote in reply. "Only the mistakes are mine. All good advice is the advice of the Spirit of God; His advice that I happen to have heard rightly and to have passed on without distorting it."

There is an excellent lesson here which we must not allow to go unregarded. It is the sweet humility of the man of God who was enabled to say, "Only the mistakes are mine."

He was fully convinced that his own efforts could result only in mistakes and that any good that came of his advice must be the work of the Holy Spirit operating within him.

Apparently this was more than a sudden impulse of self-depreciation, which the proudest of men may at times feel; it was rather a settled conviction that gave set and direction to his entire life. His long and humble ministry which brought spiritual aid to many reveals this clearly enough.

It is our belief that the evangelical movement will continue to drift farther and farther from the New Testament position unless its leadership passes from the modern religious star to the self-effacing saint who asks for no praise and seeks no place, happy only when the glory is attributed to God and himself forgotten!

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Monday

January 31

Teach the Bible – With High Moral Obligation

A. W. Tozer – Renewed Day by Day: Volume 1

Romans 6:13 (NLT)

Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.

Much that passes for New Testament Christianity is little more than objective truth sweetened with song, and made palatable by religious entertainment.

I take the risk of being misunderstood when I say that probably no other portion of the Scriptures can compare with the Pauline Epistles when it comes to making artificial saints. Peter warned that the unlearned and unstable would extract meaning out of Paul's writings to their own destruction (2 Pet. 3:16), and we have only to visit the average Bible conference and listen to a few lectures to know what he meant!

The ominous thing is that the Pauline doctrines may be taught with complete faithfulness to the letter of the text without making the hearers one whit better. The teacher may and often does so teach the truth as to leave the hearers without a sense of moral obligation.

One reason for the divorce between truth and life may be lack of the Spirit's illumination. Another surely is the teacher's unwillingness to get himself into trouble. Any man with fair pulpit gifts can get along with the average congregation if he just "feeds" them and lets them alone. Give them plenty of objective truth and never hint that they are wrong and should be set right, and they will be content!

But the man who preaches truth and applies it to the lives of his hearers will feel the nails and the thorns. He will lead a hard life—but a glorious one!

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