

The Philosophy of Ministry – Week 1

“What is the Philosophy of Ministry”

1. Review chapter 1 – Pursuit of God – “Following Hard after God”.

A. Overview of Tozer

- 1) Tozer was born in 1897 in the hills of Pennsylvania, at the age of 15 his family moved to Akron, Ohio. One day he was on his way home from working at a tire company when he heard a street preacher say, "If you don't know how to be saved, just call on God." When young Tozer got home, he climbed into his attic and did just that. He was 17 years old when he got saved.
- 2) Tozer became a part of the Christian & Missionary Alliance – and 5 years after his conversion he became the pastor of a small store front Church in Nutter Fort, West Virginia.
- 3) He pastored for a brief time in Toledo, Indianapolis, and Ohio before he would spend the next 31 years as the pastor of the Southside Alliance Church in Chicago, Illinois. He later pastored in Toronto, Canada – spending a total of 44 years pastoring.
- 4) He was a very educated man despite his limited schooling. He read and study a lot. What is interesting is after finishing the 6th grade, he left school and never finished high school nor went to college. Yet later in life he earned two honorary doctorates.
- 5) It is said that Tozer gave himself to three main tasks: prayer, study, and proclamation. He was known to arrive at his office in the early morning, change into a pair of old pants so he wouldn't wrinkle his slacks and pray for up to three hours at a time - beginning on the couch, but soon moving to the floor, face buried in the carpet. (<https://awtozer.com/about/>)
- 6) He was a humble man – he and his wife never even owned a car. They rather would take the bus or train wherever they went.
- 7) He began writing for the Alliance weekly, a magazine published by the Christian and missionary alliance denomination. He also wrote 12 books, and there were later more than 40 other books that were compiled from the many magazines and editorials he wrote, as well as from the sermons he preached.
- 8) One unique feature of the “Pursuit of God” is that he wrote the layout of the book in one night while on a train ride and would later write it while on his knees and as one man said, “perhaps that explains its power and the blessing that has rested on it.” (Pursuit of God, pg.8)

B. Chapter 1

- 1) We pursue God because God has pursued us first (prevenient Grace). “All the time we are pursuing Him we are already in His hand”. God is always previous.
- 2) Tozer feared that he saw people supposedly coming to God but having no hungering or thirsting after God. That our passion for God would be increased from our knowledge of God.

a. Why should our knowledge of God increase our love for God?

- 3) One of Tozer's favorite phrases he used was the "fellowship of the burning hearts". He highlights Moses, David, and Paul's pursuit of God. Tozer declares, "God waits to be wanted" (pg.7).
- 4) One of my favorite quotes, *"How tragic that we in this dark day have had our seeking done for us by our teachers."*
- 5) He feared that we seek God "and" other things; we need to only seek God. Let God be the reward, not what God can give.
 - a. **Genesis 15:1** — *After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.*
 - b. **Numbers 18:20** — *And the LORD spake unto Aaron, Thou shalt have no inheritance in their land, neither shalt thou have any part among them: I am thy part and thine inheritance among the children of Israel.*
 - c. **Psalms 16:5** — *The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot.*
 - d. **Lamentations 3:24** — *The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.*
 - e. **Revelation 21:3-4** — *And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, **the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them,** and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. **4;** And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*
- 6) **Tozer – "The man who has God for his treasure has all things in One."**
(Pursuit of God, Pg.9)

2. A Philosophy of Training people in the Ministry

A. Introduction

B. Oral vs Organic training

- 1) What is more important, knowing the truth, or knowing how to live out the truth? Information or application?
- 2) Being trained to serve God in ministry is not accomplished by simply giving someone the truth, but rather teaching them _____ and _____ to follow the truth. It is not just telling someone "what" God says, but also showing them how and why are to live out those truths.
- 3) I believe in oral teaching – as God's Word declares, but I also believe in organic teaching.
- 4) **Greek/Roman model of teaching vs. the Jewish model of teaching.**

C. Jesus' philosophy of training people for ministry – Mark 3:13-14

- **Mark 3:13-14** - *And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,”*

1) Jesus was intentional about _____ for them.

- a. The first thing Jesus does is prays for them. Mark's account only mentions Jesus went up into a mountain, but in Luke's account what does Jesus do all night before He called His disciple?

- **Luke 6:12-13** — *“And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, **and continued all night in prayer to God.** And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;”*

b. What did Jesus tell us to do in Luke 10:1-2? _____

1. **Luke 10:1-2** — *After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come. Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: **pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.***

2. Should we be faithful to pray for laborers? Is that something you regularly do?

2) Jesus was intentional about _____ them – Mark 3:13b *“...and calleth unto him who he would”*

- a. Prior to Mark 3, how was Jesus intentional about pursuing leaders in Matthew 4:18-21?

- **Matthew 4:18-21** - *And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, **Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.** And they straightway left their nets, and followed him. And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.*

3) Jesus was intentional about _____ He invested His time with. – **Mark 3:13b-14a** – *“and calleth unto him whom he would (wanted), and they came unto him. And he ordained twelve...”*

- a. Jesus had specifically prayed for and chose certain people to invest in who He would entrust with as the first messengers of the Gospel in Acts 1-2.

- b. Notice that when Jesus “called” the 12, that they “came unto him”. You are only able to minister to those who are willing.

1. There are only two things we can provide to grow leaders:

- i. _____
- ii. _____

2. What did Paul tell Timothy to do in 2 Timothy 2:2?

- **2 Timothy 2:2** - *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, **the same commit thou to faithful men,** who shall be able to teach others also.*

4) Jesus was intentional about consistently _____ with His disciples - Mark 3:14 — And he ordained twelve, *that they should be with him...*

- a. Luke very clearly says that Jesus Christ appointed His disciples **for the very purpose of being with Him**. Jesus' training was day by day, life on life, time spent with these men.
- b. Years later in the book of Acts, when Peter and John stand before a Jewish court, what did they conclude about these men?
 1. **Acts 4:13** — *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.*
 2. Growing someone in the Lord takes a godly influence and example in their lives. The way we influence others is by spending time with them intentionally. **One cannot truly influence those he does not spend time with.**
 - i. Who are you intentionally spending time with growing in the Lord.
 - ii. Your influence can greatly outlive your time.

5) Jesus was intentional about _____ His life to His disciples.

- a. Jesus lived with the 12 disciples every day for 3 years. They had life on life training. They learned the ministry from not only "hearing" Jesus' words but "seeing" his life.
- b. **Paul's great method of passing truth on to the next generation is not just "teaching" the truth, but _____ the truth.**
 1. **1 Corinthians 11:1** - *Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.*
 2. **1 Thessalonians 2:10** - *Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:*
 3. **Philippians 4:9** - *Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.*
 4. Paul told Titus to be a "pattern" for those in the Church to follow (Titus 2:7). Peter tells pastors to be "examples" to those in the Church (1 Peter. 5:3). Older women in the Church are called to be examples to younger women and teach them (Titus 2:3-5).
- c. How did you learn to be faithful to Church? Pray, sing to the Lord, share the Gospel, love God, give, be humble? pray, evangelize, be faithful, love God, give, be humble? By hearing it or by seeing it done in front of you?
- d. How can you model the following to those God will allow you to disciple: *Prayer, evangelism, faithfulness, love for God, love for others, giving, humility, being a servant?*

6) Jesus was intentional about raising up those who would minister and preach - Mark 3:14b – "...and that he might send them forth to preach."

- a. Jesus was working to replace Himself in the teaching and preaching ministry. Others who could do what He was doing.
- b. **John 17:18 — 18**; *As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.*
- c. **John 20:21 — 21**; *Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.*
- d. **Matthew 10:40 — 40**; *He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.*
- e. **2 Timothy 2:2 — 2**; *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*

D. Our Philosophy of Training people for ministry (personal testimony)

3. What does the “Philosophy of Ministry” mean?

- A. The etymology of the word “philosophy”.
 - 1) “Philosophy” comes from the Greek word “philosophia” and means the “love of _____ (philosophia – from philos: “love”; and sophía: “wisdom”).
 - 2) Should Christian’s love wisdom?
 - a. **Colossians 2:3 — 3**; *In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*
 - b. **Proverbs 2:6 — 6**; *“For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.”*
- B. But “philosophy” also has an expanded meaning, it can also mean “A theory or attitude held by a person that acts as a guiding principle for behavior.” (Oxford dictionary). When we speak of someone’s “philosophy of life” what do we mean?
- C. When we speak of the philosophy of ministry, we are referring to the set of core values and unchanging principles that determine how you live as a Christian. Simply stated, your philosophy of ministry defines _____ you do what you do. If doctrine is the “what” of ministry, philosophy is thy “why” of ministry.
- D. **The philosophy of ministry not only speaks of the “why” of ministry but the “how” of ministry.**
 - 1) How do you live out the truth that you believe?
 - 2) How do you apply in your life what you believe?
 - 3) How do you take the doctrines of Scripture and live them out?
 - 4) How do you apply in the Church and ministry what you believe?
 - 5) If doctrine has to do with “information”, philosophy has to do with “application”.

4. Why is the philosophy of ministry so important?

- A. What do you think of the following statement: *“Philosophy is just as important as doctrine”.*
- B. Doctrine is what you believe, philosophy is why you do what you do. It is the foundation of how you carry out the ministry.

- a. How important is the “why” of ministry?
- b. If you get the “what” right and the “why” wrong, what can happen?
- c. Does it matter “how” you minister?
- d. Is how you carry out what you believe as important as what you believe?

C. Tozer had a great concern that people would have right knowledge of God, but not a right love for God.

1) Why can this be a problem?

a. What key truth do you learn from 1 Corinthians 13:1-3? _____

- **1 Corinthians 13:1-3 — 1;** *Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2; And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. 3; And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.*

b. What stands out to you in the following passage? _____

- **Revelation 2:2-5 — 2;** *I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: 3; And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. 4; Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. 5; Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*

2) In the preface of Pursuit of God Tozer writes: *“There may be a right opinion of God without either love or one right temper toward Him. Satan is proof of this.”* (pg.16).

- **What do you think of the following statement,** *“Lukewarmness is one of the greatest blasphemies against God because it says, God I know you exist, but you just don’t excite me anymore.”*

3) Tozer feared the lack of preachers feeding the sheep in the Church, he quotes Milton, “The hungry sheep look up, and are not fed” – It is a solemn thing, and no small scandal in the kingdom, to see God’s children starving while actually seated at the Father’s table. (pg.16).

4) Tozer warned that men need more than words (information), they need God Himself!

- Tozer writ

- es, *“This book is a modest attempt to aid God’s hungry children so to find Him.... if my fire is not large, it is yet real, and there may be those who can light there candle at its flame.* (Preface of Pursuit of God, pg.17).

D. What should be some “why’s” of ministry with supporting verses?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

Philosophy of Ministry - Week 2 Assignments

- **Read Jonathan Edwards 70 Resolutions.**
- **Write 7 Resolutions for your own life with supporting Scripture**, these are the (core values/principles to live by). The “why’s” and “how’s” of your Christian life.
- **Read chapter 2** - Pursuit of God – “The Blessedness of Possessing Nothing” and write a 2-paragraph response:
 - Paragraph one: Summarize what this chapter was about.
 - Paragraph two: How you can apply these truths to your life.