GENERAL

the attributes of god tozer

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Understanding the Attributes of God According to John Tozer

When exploring Christian theology, one of the most profound questions is: *What does God look like?* While Scripture offers a tapestry of divine qualities, many believers seek a concise framework that captures the essence of the Almighty. One influential voice that has shaped contemporary Christian thought on this topic is the late preacher and author **John Tozer**. Known for his deep devotion and passionate preaching, Tozer devoted much of his ministry to articulating the attributes of God in a way that invites both reverence and intimacy.

In this article, we will dive into **the attributes of God Tozer**, exploring how he described each characteristic and why they matter for believers today. We'll cover the core attributes he emphasized, provide scriptural backing, and reflect on how these attributes shape our relationship with God.

Who Was John Tozer?

John Tozer (1913–2000) was a prominent Australian Christian evangelist, author, and pastor. He is best remembered for his heartfelt preaching style and his ability to distill complex theological concepts into accessible, relatable language. Tozer served as the pastor of the *Christ Church* in Melbourne and later founded the *Christ Church Cathedral*in Sydney. He also wrote numerous books, including "The Kingdom of Heaven," "The Lord's Prayer," and "The Life of the Spirit."

Tozer's approach to theology was deeply grounded in Scripture. He believed that the Bible is the ultimate source of truth and that any understanding of God must be rooted in the text. His sermons often centered on the attributes of God, urging believers to seek a deeper, more authentic relationship with the Divine.

Tozer's View on Divine Attributes

Tozer approached the attributes of God not as abstract theological concepts but as living realities that shape our everyday faith. He believed that knowing God's attributes is essential for worship, obedience, and spiritual growth. His emphasis on attributes such as *love, holiness, and grace*reflects his conviction that God is both transcendent and intimately involved in the lives of believers.

In his preaching, Tozer often used the phrase, "God is not a distant ruler but a loving father." This statement encapsulates the heart of his theology: God's attributes are not just qualities to be admired from afar; they are the foundation of a dynamic relationship between God and humanity.

Core Attributes According to Tozer

While Tozer discussed many attributes of God throughout his ministry, some stand out as central to his teachings. Below is a comprehensive list of the attributes he frequently highlighted, each accompanied by scriptural references and practical implications.

1. Love (Agape)

- Scriptural Basis: 1 John 4:8 – "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

- Tozer's Perspective: Tozer considered love the defining attribute of God. He believed that God's love is unconditional, sacrificial, and the very source of all other attributes.
- Practical Implication: Recognizing God's love invites believers to love others selflessly, reflecting God's character in everyday interactions.

2. Holiness (Holism)

- Scriptural Basis: Isaiah 6:3 – "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory."
- Tozer's Perspective: Holiness for Tozer was not merely moral purity but an all-encompassing reality that permeates God's nature. He argued that holiness is the foundation of God's other attributes.
- Practical Implication: Believers are called to live holy lives, aligning their actions with God's pure standards.

3. Justice

- Scriptural Basis: Psalm 9:8 – "The Lord has established a standard of justice; the wicked will not go unpunished."
- Tozer's Perspective: Justice is the fair and righteous exercise of God's power. Tozer emphasized that justice and love are inseparable; God's love is demonstrated through His righteous judgment.
- Practical Implication: Christians are called to pursue justice in society, advocating for fairness and protecting the vulnerable.

4. Wisdom

- Scriptural Basis: Proverbs 2:6 – "For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding."
- Tozer's Perspective: Wisdom is the ability to apply divine knowledge in life. Tozer saw wisdom as the bridge between God's knowledge and human decision-making.
- Practical Implication: Seek God's wisdom through prayer and study, allowing Him to guide choices.

5. Omnipotence (All-Power)

- Scriptural Basis: Jeremiah 32:17 – "Ah, Lord God, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and your outstretched arm; nothing is impossible for you."
- Tozer's Perspective: Omnipotence underscores God's supreme authority and control over all creation. Tozer reminded believers that God's power is limitless and that His will always prevails.
- Practical Implication: Trust in God's power during trials, knowing He can bring about His purposes.

6. Omniscience (All-Knowing)

- Scriptural Basis: Psalm 147:5 – "Great is the Lord, and his greatness is beyond measure; he has power and knowledge."
- Tozer's Perspective: Omniscience assures believers that God is fully aware of every thought, action, and circumstance. Tozer stressed that this attribute invites confidence in God's guidance.
- Practical Implication: Confide in God, knowing He comprehends all aspects of your life.

7. Omnipresence (All-Present)

- Scriptural Basis: Jeremiah 23:24 – "Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see? declares the Lord."
- Tozer's Perspective: Omnipresence means God is present everywhere at all times. Tozer emphasized that this attribute reassures believers of God's constant companionship.
- Practical Implication: Experience God's presence in all moments, whether in worship or daily routines.

8. Immutability (Unchanging)

- Scriptural Basis: Hebrews 13:8 – "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."
- Tozer's Perspective: Immutability is the unchanging nature of God. Tozer highlighted that God's character does not shift, giving believers a reliable foundation.

- Practical Implication: Anchor your faith in God's steadfastness, especially during uncertain times.

9. Sovereignty (Supreme Rule)

- Scriptural Basis: Psalm 103:19 – "The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all."
- Tozer's Perspective: Sovereignty is God's ultimate authority over all creation. Tozer taught that acknowledging God's sovereignty fosters humility and trust.
- Practical Implication: Submit to God's will in every aspect of life, recognizing His ultimate control.

10. Grace (Unmerited Favor)

- Scriptural Basis: Ephesians 2:8–9 – "For by grace you have been saved through faith… not a result of works."
- Tozer's Perspective: Grace is the free and unearned favor of God. Tozer saw grace as the ultimate expression of God's love and mercy.
- Practical Implication: Live in gratitude, extending grace to others as God has extended it to you.

11. Mercy (Compassion)

- Scriptural Basis: Psalm 103:8 – "The Lord is compassionate and gracious."
- Tozer's Perspective: Mercy is God's compassion toward humanity, especially in moments of sin and suffering. Tozer urged believers to mirror this mercy in their interactions.
- Practical Implication: Show empathy and forgiveness, reflecting God's mercy to those around you.

12. Faithfulness (Reliability)

- Scriptural Basis: 1 Corinthians 1:9 – "God is faithful; he has called you into fellowship with his Son."
- Tozer's Perspective: Faithfulness is God's reliability in keeping promises. Tozer stressed that this attribute builds trust between God and His people.
- Practical Implication: Rely on God's promises, and trust that He will fulfill His word.

How Tozer's Attributes Shape Christian Living

Understanding the attributes of God is one thing; applying them to daily life is another. Tozer believed that these attributes should inform every aspect of a believer's walk with Christ. Below are practical ways to integrate Tozer's insights into everyday faith.

1. Worship Rooted in Love and Holiness

Tozer's emphasis on love and holiness invites believers to worship with sincerity. When we recognize God's love, we worship from a place of gratitude. When we honor God's holiness, we worship with reverence, acknowledging the sacredness of the divine presence.

2. Justice and Mercy in Social Action

God's justice and mercy are intertwined. Tozer encouraged Christians to advocate for justice—supporting the oppressed, fighting injustice—and to demonstrate mercy by showing compassion to those in need.

3. Seeking Wisdom and Guidance

In a world filled with uncertainty, Tozer reminded believers to seek God's wisdom. Through prayer, Scripture study, and wise counsel, Christians can make decisions that align with God's will.

4. Trusting in Omnipotence and Sovereignty

During trials, remembering that God is all-powerful and sovereign offers comfort. Tozer taught that we can trust God's control, even when circumstances seem chaotic.

5. Living in Grace and Mercy

Grace and mercy are gifts to be shared. Tozer urged believers to extend grace to others, forgiving and encouraging them, just as God forgave and encouraged us

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