

The Attributes Of God A.w. Tozer

The attributes of God A. W. Tozer are a profound exploration of the divine nature, offering believers a deeper understanding of who God is. A. W. Tozer, a renowned Christian pastor and theologian, dedicated much of his life to studying and articulating the character of God. His book, *The Attributes of God*, remains a classic in Christian literature, serving as a foundational resource for those seeking to comprehend the essence of the Divine. In this article, we will explore the key attributes of God as presented by Tozer, delving into the qualities that define God's character and how they influence our faith and relationship with Him.

Understanding the Nature of God

Tozer emphasizes that knowing God is the most important pursuit of the human soul. The attributes of God reveal His nature and provide believers with a clearer picture of His divine character. Recognizing these attributes helps foster worship, trust, and a desire to emulate His holiness. Let's examine some of the most significant attributes highlighted by Tozer.

Inherent Attributes of God

These are qualities that define God's very essence and are immutable, meaning they never change.

1. Omnipotence: God's Unlimited Power

Tozer describes God's omnipotence as His all-encompassing power, capable of doing anything that is consistent with His nature. This attribute reassures believers that God's power is sufficient to fulfill His promises and accomplish His purposes.

1. God has the ability to create ex nihilo (out of nothing).
2. He can sustain the universe and uphold all things by His power.
3. His omnipotence means there are no limits to what He can do.

2. Omniscience: God's Infinite Knowledge

Tozer emphasizes that God's omniscience encompasses all knowledge—past, present, and future. He knows everything that has happened, is happening, and will happen.

1. God's understanding is perfect and complete.
2. He is not surprised by any event or decision.
3. This attribute offers believers assurance that God's plans are perfect and unthwarted.

3. Omnipresence: God's Presence Everywhere

God's omnipresence signifies that He is present everywhere at all times. Tozer notes that there is no place in the universe where God is absent.

1. This attribute assures believers of God's constant presence.
2. It emphasizes that God is accessible at all times, in all circumstances.
3. God's omnipresence underscores His intimate involvement in creation.

4. Immutability: God's Unchanging Nature

Tozer highlights that God's character and promises do not change. His immutability ensures that His nature remains constant and reliable.

1. God's love, justice, and mercy are unchanging.
2. This attribute provides stability and confidence for believers.
3. It assures us that God's promises are steadfast and trustworthy.

Relational Attributes of God

These qualities describe how God interacts with His creation, especially with humanity.

1. Holiness: God's Absolute Moral Purity

Holiness is central to God's character, representing His moral perfection and separation from sin. Tozer describes God's holiness as the defining attribute that sets Him apart from all creation.

1. God is completely pure and morally perfect.
2. His holiness calls believers to pursue righteousness.
3. Encountering God's holiness leads to reverence and worship.

2. Love: God's Infinite Compassion and Grace

Tozer emphasizes that God's love is unconditional, eternal, and sacrificial. God's love is the foundation of His relationship with humanity.

1. God's love is demonstrated through His willingness to send His Son.
2. His love is patient, kind, and enduring.
3. This attribute assures believers of acceptance and forgiveness.

3. Justice: God's Righteous Judgment

God's justice ensures that He upholds righteousness and punishes evil. Tozer asserts that God's justice is perfectly balanced with His mercy.

1. God administers fair and righteous judgment.
2. His justice guarantees that evil will not go unpunished.
3. It also underscores the importance of living according to His standards.

4. Mercy and Grace: God's Compassionate Favor

Mercy and grace highlight God's kindness in forgiving sins and offering salvation. Tozer notes that these attributes reveal God's desire to restore and redeem His creation.

1. Mercy is God's compassion shown to the guilty.
2. Grace is His unmerited favor extended to undeserving humanity.
3. These attributes motivate believers to seek His forgiveness and live in gratitude.

Attributes That Reflect God's Sovereignty and Wisdom

Tozer also explores attributes that reveal God's supreme authority and perfect wisdom.

1. Sovereignty: God's Supreme Authority

God's sovereignty means He rules over all creation with ultimate authority. Tozer stresses that God's sovereignty is a foundational truth for believers, affirming that nothing happens outside His control.

1. God's plans will ultimately prevail.
2. He governs the universe with wisdom and purpose.
3. Believers can trust in His divine sovereignty even amid chaos.

2. Wisdom: God's Perfect Knowledge Applied

God's wisdom is His ability to apply knowledge perfectly in His decisions and actions. Tozer highlights that God's wisdom guides His creation and His dealings with humanity.

1. God's plans are always for the ultimate good.
2. His wisdom surpasses human understanding.
3. Trusting in God's wisdom provides peace in uncertain times.

The Significance of God's Attributes in Christian Life

Understanding the attributes of God as articulated by Tozer isn't merely an academic exercise; it has practical implications for believers' spiritual lives.

1. Worship and Reverence

Recognizing God's holiness, omnipotence, and other attributes naturally leads to worship. When believers see God's greatness and purity, their hearts are stirred to honor and adore Him.

2. Trust and Confidence

Knowing that God is omniscient, omnipotent, and immutable provides confidence in His promises and plans. This trust strengthens faith during trials and uncertainties.

3. Personal Transformation

Reflecting on God's attributes encourages believers to emulate His holiness and love. It inspires a pursuit of moral purity and compassion, fostering spiritual growth.

Conclusion: Embracing the Divine Attributes

A. W. Tozer's exploration of God's attributes invites believers into a deeper relationship with the Divine. By understanding God's omnipotence, omniscience, holiness, love, justice, mercy, sovereignty, and wisdom, Christians can develop a more profound reverence and trust in Him. These attributes serve as a foundation for worship, assurance, and moral living. As Tozer eloquently reminds us,

knowing God is the ultimate pursuit—an endeavor that transforms hearts and shapes lives. Embracing these divine qualities encourages believers to live in awe of God's greatness and to reflect His character in their daily walk. Whether you are new to faith or have walked with Christ for years, studying the attributes of God as presented by Tozer can deepen your spiritual journey and foster a life of genuine worship and trust in the Creator of all.

The Attributes of God A.W. Tozer are a profound exploration into the very nature and character of the divine, offering believers and seekers alike a deeper understanding of who God is beyond mere concepts or doctrines. A.W. Tozer, a renowned Christian pastor and spiritual writer, dedicated much of his life to articulating the majesty, holiness, and mystery of God. His work remains a cornerstone in Christian theological literature, inspiring readers to seek a more intimate and reverent relationship with the divine. This article offers an in-depth review of Tozer's portrayal of God's attributes, examining their theological significance, practical implications, and the enduring relevance of his insights.

Understanding the Essence of God According to A.W. Tozer

A.W. Tozer's treatment of God's attributes is rooted in a biblical foundation, emphasizing that our knowledge of God's nature is essential for genuine worship and spiritual growth. He asserts that many Christians have a distorted or superficial view of God, often shaped by cultural influences or incomplete theology. Tozer's work aims to rectify this by revealing the true nature of God as revealed in Scripture, emphasizing attributes such as holiness, sovereignty, love, and justice.

The Holiness of God

Definition and Significance

Tozer places the attribute of holiness at the core of his understanding of God's nature. He describes God's holiness as His absolute purity, moral perfection, and separation from all evil. For Tozer, holiness is not just one of God's attributes but the very essence of His being.

Features and Insights

- Transcendence: God's holiness underscores His separateness from creation, emphasizing that He is utterly distinct and other than all that exists. - Moral Perfection: God's moral purity means He is without sin, fault, or imperfection. - Reverence and Worship: Recognizing God's holiness should inspire awe, reverence, and humility among believers.

Pros and Cons

Pros: - Encourages believers to pursue moral integrity. - Cultivates reverence and awe in worship. - Reinforces the idea of God's majesty and sovereignty. Cons: - The concept of holiness can sometimes evoke fear rather than love if misunderstood. - Overemphasis on God's transcendence might lead to a distant view of God, diminishing personal intimacy.

The Sovereignty of God

Understanding God's Sovereignty

Tozer emphasizes that God's sovereignty means He has absolute authority and control over all creation. Nothing happens outside His knowledge or permission. This attribute highlights God's ultimate power and plan for the universe.

Features and Insights

- All-Encompassing Control: God's sovereignty extends over nations, history, and individual lives. - Purposeful Providence: Everything unfolds according to His divine plan. - Reassurance for Believers: Trusting in God's sovereignty provides comfort amid chaos and suffering.

Pros and Cons

Pros: - Provides assurance that God's plan is good, even when circumstances seem bleak. - Encourages humility and dependence on God's wisdom. - Helps believers accept trials as part of divine sovereignty. Cons: - The concept can sometimes lead to fatalism if misinterpreted. - Might diminish human responsibility if overemphasized.

The Love of God

Tozer's Perspective on Divine Love

While holiness and sovereignty are often associated with awe and reverence, Tozer highlights the attribute of God's love as a central facet of His character. He portrays God's love as unconditional, sacrificial, and eternal.

Features and Insights

- Agape Love: Unconditional and selfless love that seeks the best for others. - Relentless Compassion: God's love extends to every individual, regardless of merit. - Motivating Force: Divine love prompts God's actions and His desire for relationship.

Pros and Cons

Pros: - Offers comfort and hope to believers. - Draws people into a personal relationship with God. - Emphasizes the relational aspect of faith. Cons: - Sometimes misunderstood as a license to sin if not balanced by His holiness. - Can lead to complacency if love is perceived as leniency.

The Justice and Righteousness of God

Understanding Divine Justice

Tozer underscores that God's justice is perfect, fair, and righteous. It ensures that evil is punished and good is rewarded.

Features and Insights

- Moral Balance: God's justice upholds moral order. - Accountability: Humanity is accountable before a just God. - Hope and Consequence: Justice ensures ultimate accountability and divine judgment.

Pros and Cons

Pros: - Reinforces moral standards. - Provides a sense of moral justice and purpose. - Encourages ethical living. Cons: - The concept of divine judgment can evoke fear or misunderstanding. - Balancing God's justice with His mercy is complex and often debated.

The Immutability and Eternity of God

Attributes of Stability

Tozer discusses God's unchanging nature (immutability) and eternal existence. These attributes assure believers that God's character does not fluctuate and that His promises are secure.

Features and Insights

- Unchanging Nature: God's character remains consistent throughout eternity. - Eternal Presence: God exists outside of time, unaffected by the temporal world. - Reliability: Believers can trust in God's consistent nature.

Pros and Cons

Pros: - Provides stability and assurance. - Reinforces trust in God's promises. - Encourages perseverance amid change. Cons: - The concept of God's immutability can challenge understanding of divine responsiveness. - Difficult for some to reconcile with the dynamic nature of personal relationships.

Practical Implications of Tozer's View of God's Attributes

Understanding and internalizing Tozer's portrayal of God's attributes has profound practical effects on believers' spiritual lives: - Deeper Worship: Recognizing God's holiness and majesty fosters genuine reverence. - Moral Living: Awareness of His justice and righteousness encourages ethical conduct. - Comfort and Hope: Trust in His love and sovereignty provides reassurance during trials. - Personal Transformation: A proper view of God's character motivates believers toward holiness and humility.

Critiques and Modern Relevance

While Tozer's portrayal of God's attributes is largely revered, some critiques and considerations are worth noting: - Potential for Overemphasis: Focusing heavily on God's transcendence might lead to a distant perception of God, neglecting His relational aspects. - Balancing Attributes: Modern theology must balance God's holiness with His love and mercy, avoiding an overly fear-based view. - Applicability Today: In a world filled with moral relativism and spiritual confusion, Tozer's emphasis on divine attributes offers clarity and stability.

Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of A.W. Tozer's Attributes of God

A.W. Tozer's exploration of the attributes of God remains a vital resource for those seeking a richer understanding of the divine nature. His emphasis on holiness, sovereignty, love, justice, and immutability offers a comprehensive and reverent portrait of God, challenging believers to elevate their worship, deepen their faith, and pursue moral integrity. While some aspects require careful nuance and balance, Tozer's work continues to inspire millions to pursue a more authentic and profound relationship with God. His insights serve as a reminder that knowing God truly is the foundation of genuine faith and spiritual transformation, making his attributes not merely theological concepts but practical guides for everyday life.

Questions & Answers About the attributes of god a.w. tozer

No	Question	Answer
1	What are the key attributes of God highlighted by A.W. Tozer?	A.W. Tozer emphasizes attributes such as God's holiness, omnipotence, omniscience, love, mercy, justice, and faithfulness as essential to understanding His nature.
2	How does A.W. Tozer describe God's holiness?	Tozer describes God's holiness as the central attribute that sets Him apart from creation, emphasizing His absolute purity, moral perfection, and transcendence.
3	In what way does Tozer explain God's love in his writings?	Tozer portrays God's love as unconditional, sacrificial, and eternal, highlighting that God's love is the foundation of His interactions with humanity and His desire for relationship.
4	What does A.W. Tozer say about God's omniscience?	Tozer affirms that God's omniscience means He knows everything past, present, and future, emphasizing His perfect knowledge and sovereignty over all creation.
5	How does Tozer emphasize God's justice in his teachings?	Tozer underscores that God's justice ensures that He is fair and righteous, punishing sin and rewarding righteousness, reflecting His moral integrity.
6	What significance does Tozer attribute to God's mercy?	Tozer highlights God's mercy as His compassionate response to human failure, offering forgiveness and grace to those who seek Him.
7	How does Tozer's view of God's attributes impact Christian worship?	Tozer's portrayal of God's attributes encourages believers to worship with reverence, humility, and awe, recognizing God's majesty, power, and loving kindness.
8	Why are the attributes of God important according to A.W. Tozer?	Tozer believes understanding God's attributes is vital for genuine worship, spiritual growth, and a correct view of God's nature, which influences how believers live and relate to Him.

divinity, omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, holiness, sovereignty, grace, mercy, love, righteousness