The Pursuit of God

STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS

by

Jonathan L. Graf

INTRODUCTION QUESTIONNAIRE

Please answer these questions honestly. The answers are for your benefit alone.

1.	How	does	one	become	a	Christian?
•••	11011	acco	OIIC	o c c c i i i c	ч	OIII IO CIUIII

- 2 When did I become a Christian?
- 3 Did becoming a Christian bring any noticeable changes to my life? What were they?
- 4 Have I ever had a subsequent experience that I would consider to be the filling of the Holy Spirit? When did it happen? What changes did this experience bring in my life?

5 Do I find joy in worshiping God, both privately and with fellow believers?

- 6 How often do I gather with other believers?
 - a less than weekly
 - b weekly
 - c twice a week
 - d more than twice a week
- 7. How often do I read my Bible?
 - a never
 - h seldom
 - c once or twice a week
 - d three to five times a week
 - e daily or more often
- 8 How often do I converse with God in prayer?
 - a seldom
 - b once or twice a week
 - c three to five times a week
 - d daily
 - e frequently throughout the day

9. When I pray is it a meaningful time of communion, or do I quickly run through a list of requests?

- 10. When a problem occurs in my life, what is my first response to it?
 - a pray or ask "what is God trying to teach me?"
 - b immediately turn the matter over to God
 - c think "what am I going to do?"
 - d react emotionally
 - e do nothing
- 11. If I answered c, d or e to question 10, how soon do I get around to a or b?
 - a very quickly
 - b somewhat soon
 - c not very soon
 - d never

STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS SESSION 2 Chapter 1: Following Hard after God

1.	What does the law of prevenient grace say in practical terms about our seeking God?
2	What is the essence of genuine religion? (John 17:3)
3	Why can't this intimate relationship with God come through our involvement with a body of believers?
4	In what way is the Christian life a paradox?

5 What is deadly to spiritual growth? Why?

6 In what ways does Tozer feel that we need simplicity in our spiritual life?

7. God is speaking to me through this chapter. The one thing I am going to do to develop a closer relationship with Him is:

STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS SESSION 3

Chapter 2: The Blessedness of Possessing Nothing

1.	Tozer had a unique meaning for "poor in spir-
	it." In your own words explain what he feels it
	means.

2 Read Genesis 22:1–18. While we often look at this passage as Abraham's test of faith, Tozer uses it to stress his point about placing God first in one's life. How does this incident support that point?

3 Why is clinging to things one of the most harmful habits in life?

4	What are some things that are hard for people to give up?
5	What things are hard for me to give up?
6	Read Matthew 19:16–30. What lessons from this passage relate to the theme of the chapter?
7.	For further study look at the following passages of Scripture and summarize how each relates to our theme.
	Mark 8:34-38:
	Luke 12:15–34:
	Luke 9:57–62:

Luke 14:26-35:

8 God is speaking to me through this chapter. The one thing I am going to do to develop a closer relationship with Him is:

STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS SESSION 4 Chapter 3: Removing the Veil

1. For what was mankind chiefly created?

2	In what areas does your life glorify God? In what areas does your life fail to glorify God?
3.	What veil has now been removed? What does its removal mean for me as a Christian?
4.	According to Tozer, what hinders Christians from entering into the presence of God? In what ways might this hindrance be present in your own life?

5. God is speaking to me through this chapter. The one thing I am going to do to develop a closer relationship with Him is:

STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS SESSION 5 Chapter 4: Apprehending God

- 1 "To most people God is an inference, not a reality." Is He a reality to you? If so, explain why and how He is real to you. If not, what could He do to make Himself a reality to you?
- 2 In what ways can we apprehend God in the same way we can apprehend this world?
- 3 Why can't unregenerate people apprehend God? (1 Corinthians 2:14; Romans 1:20–21)
- 4 What is the key for believers to know and have a habitual, conscious communion with God? In other words, what enables our spiritual senses to function? (Hebrews 11:6)

	What is the difference between imagination and faith?
	Why do we habitually think of the visible world as real and doubt the reality of the other?
	What do we have to be if we truly seek to follow Christ?
	God is speaking to me through this chapter. The one thing I am going to do to develop a closer relationship with Him is:
Th	ne steps I am going to take are:

STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS SESSION 6 Chapter 5: The Universal Presence

1. Explain in your own words the difference between pantheism and the doctrine of the divine Presence.

2 As an exercise of encouragement, rewrite Psalm 139:7–10 in your own words, substituting places and situations (i.e., work, the market, etc.) that are meaningful to you.

3 Why do some persons "find" God in a way others do not? What is "spiritual receptivity" and what does it have to do with why some have deep experiences and others struggle constantly in the "half-light of imperfect Christian experience"?

	Sinay Chiac	
4	How does Psalm 27:8 relate to why some people have spiritual receptivity and others do not?	
5	What does a person need to do to become more spiritually receptive?	
6	God is speaking to me through this chapter. The one thing I am going to do to develop a closer relationship with Him is:	
The steps I am going to take are:		

STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS SESSION 7 Chapter 6: The Speaking Voice

1.	What do Psalm 33:6, 9; Hebrews 11:3 and
	Genesis 1:9 indicate about the power of God's
	Word?

2 What is the relation of God's spoken Word to His written Word—the Bible?

3 How is God's voice apparent to even the unsaved? (John 1:9–10; Romans 1:20; 2:15)

4 In what ways is God's voice apparent to those who are His children?

5	Has there been a time in your life when you heard His voice? How did you know it was the voice of the Lord?
6	Read Psalm 29. What insights about God's voice can you glean from this passage?
7.	How can we develop our sensitivity so we can more clearly and regularly "hear" God's voice?
8	God is speaking to me through this chapter. The one thing I am going to do to develop a closer relationship with Him is:

STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS SESSION 8 Chapter 7: The Gaze of the Soul

1.	Read Hebrews 11:6. In light of this verse and
	what Tozer says, what do we have if we possess
	faith?

2 According to Hebrews 11:1, what is faith? Explain it in your own words.

3 What does Tozer mean when he says that faith is defined functionally, not philosophically?

4 How do we obtain faith? (Ephesians 2:8; Romans 10:17)

5	Explain the similarities and differences between the faith of a believer today and that of an Old Testament Israelite.
6	In what ways is faith a virtue that does not regard the self?
7.	How does the development of individual faith help the unity of the body of Christ?
8	God is speaking to me through this chapter. The one thing I am going to do to develop my relationship with Him is:
Tl	ne steps I am going to take are:

STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS SESSION 9

Chapter 8: Restoring the Creator-Creature Relation

1.	Explain the importance of a "fixed center against
	which everything else is measured." Why should
	God be our fixed center?

2 According to Tozer, from where does much of our difficulty as seeking Christians stem? Why does this cause difficulty?

3 What does Tozer mean when he says "we must of necessity be servant to someone"?

4.	What	results	from	our	truly	exalting	and	hon-
	oring	God?						

5 God is speaking to me through this chapter. The one thing I am going to do to develop my relationship with Him is:

STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS SESSION 10 Chapter 9: Meekness and Rest

1.	According to T	ozer,	what	springs	directly	from
	our sins?					

2	In Matthew 11:28-30 burden and rest are
	contrasted. What does each mean in these
	verses?

3 In what ways does Tozer indicate that one of the causes of our burden is pride?

4 What are the characteristics of a meek person?

5 Explain the other two causes of our burden.

6 God is speaking to me through this chapter. The one thing I am going to do to develop my relationship with Him is:

The steps I am going to take are:

STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS SESSION 11 Chapter 10: The Sacrament of Living

1.	What, according to Tozer, is one of the great-
	est hindrances to a Christian's internal peace?
	Why is it such a hindrance?

2	In what way is Christ our model in overcom-
	ing this problem?

3 How can we put into practice the command of 1 Corinthians 10:31?

4 How do we practice living to the glory of God?

5 What, according to Tozer, was the purpose of the holy days and rituals of the Old Testament? And why does Tozer feel no great emphasis should be placed on such things today?

6 How does a person make every part of his life a holy, uncommon act?

7. God is speaking to me through this chapter. The one thing I am going to do to develop my relationship with Him is:

The steps I am going to take are: