

# A Study of A.W. Tozer's "The Knowledge of the Holy"

## Grace Community Church

### **I. Who is A.W. Tozer?**

- Aiden Wilson Tozer was a Christian pastor, author, magazine editor, mentor and spiritual advisor from LaJose Pennsylvania.
- April 21, 1897 – May 12, 1963
- 44 years of ministry

### **II. Books**

- *The Pursuit of God*
- *The Knowledge of the Holy*
- *I Talk Back to the Devil: Essays in Spiritual Perfection*
- *Over 50 other titles and magazine articles*

### **III. What is the purpose of this work?**

Tozer seeks to ***restore the majesty to God*** in a godless age. Tozer felt as if the decline in the knowledge of the HOLY God is the root cause of every issue in the church (**2 Tim 3:1,4**)

### **IV. Chapter Summaries**

#### **CHAPTER 1: Thinking Rightly About God**

*“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”*

#### **A. Key Points from the Chapter**

- A right conception of God is the foundation for all Christian living
- Our worship depends on our view of God (**Ezekiel 28:2 vs Isaiah 44:6,7**)

- If the church things wrongly about God, the church will act wrongly in relation to God (**Revelation 2:18-22**)
- What we think about God will influence how we live as Christians (**Acts 5:1-6**)
- Thinking rightly about God reminds us of our obligation to Him (**see Mark 12:29-31; Romans 12:1-3; Acts 17:24,25;28**)
- Thinking rightly about God reminds us that our debts are canceled in Christ Jesus (**John 19:30**)
- A God of our imagination is no God at all (**Psalms 50:21; Isaiah 29:15,16; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18**)
- Idolatry begins with wrong thoughts about God (**Romans 1:21**)
- The heaviest obligation on the church today is the purify and elevate our concept of God (**Ephesians 4:17**)

**B. Points to Ponder** [See Isaiah 6:1-4; Ezekiel 1:22-28; Revelation 4:8]

1. How do we perceive God in our hearts?
2. Who is God to you?
3. Finish this statement: God is...
4. Describe God in one word.

**CHAPTER 2:**

**God Incomprehensible**

“The Spirit of God will use something familiar to describe something that is beyond our field of knowledge”

**A. Key Points from the Chapter**

- What is God like?

- The Holy Spirit reveals God to us (**Jeremiah 33:3; 1 Corinthians 2:6-10**)
- A supreme and divine God is difficult to describe with human terminology (**Ezekiel 1:22-28**)
- We are image bearers but we are not exact copies of God (**Genesis 1:26,27; Genesis 5:1; Genesis 9:6; Ephesians 4:24; Ephesians 5:1**)
  
- We are like God but we are not alike (**Genesis 3:5**)
- God is rightly incomprehensible (**1 Timothy 6:15,16**)
- Man yearns to know God (**Psalms 42:2-7; Ecclesiastes 3:11**)
- A God of our imagination is no God at all (**Psalms 50:21; Isaiah 29:15,16; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18**)
- Jesus made God reality to man (**John 1:18; Colossians 1:15; Colossians 2:17; Hebrews 1:3-5; )**
- We can know God but we will never know everything about God

**B. Points to Ponder [See Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:5,6; Hebrews 12:24]**

- Why do you think it is important to know God?
- What are some words used to describe what God is “like”?
- Do you think that there is more to know about God?
- Why is Jesus important?

## **CHAPTER 3: A Divine Attribute- Something True About God**

*“Still a psalmist, a prophet and a saint have encouraged me that I may, in some measure, know you,”*

### **A. Key Points from the Chapter**

- What an attribute? (**Deuteronomy 29:29; 30:11-14; Hebrews 1:1,2**)
- God’s three-fold revelation of Himself to us came through 1) nature 2) His word and 3) the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ (**Psalm 19:1; John 5:39,40; John 1:14**)
- God’s answers to us regarding who He is are not always on the surface but rather are sought and found through prayer and disciplined seeking (**Psalm 24:3,4; Matthew 5:8; Luke 11:9; James 1:18**)
- An attribute is related to the existence of God and is not a trait of a characteristic (**Malachi 3:6; Philippians 2:5-8**)
- God is not the sum of parts but is a unity (**Deuteronomy 6:3; John 10:30; John 14:8,9; Acts 5:3,4**)
- Men are both created and made (**Genesis 1:26,27**)
- God could only truly communicate the mystery of His being, existence or His SELF to an equal (**John 17:5; Romans 8:26**)

### **B. Points to Ponder [See 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Numbers 23:19; Job 38:4-11; Galatians 4:4]**

- What are the three components that make up every person?
- What do you know to be true of God?
- Are there any natural occurrences that confirm your belief in God?
- Describe the importance of Jesus being the final way that God chose to reveal Himself to us.

## CHAPTER 4: The Holy Trinity

*“Love and faith are at home in the mystery of the Godhead. Let reason kneel in reverence outside”*

### **A. Key Points from the Chapter**

- Is the word “Trinity” located anywhere in the Bible?
- “Trinity” was first used in its Greek form “trias” by Theophilus of Antioch in 180 A.D.
- Idea: The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all one and they operate with one purpose.
  1. The Trinity does not suggest polytheism
  2. God does not suffer from multiple personality disorder (**Hebrews 13:8**)
- Ideas about the Trinity that are not sustainable
  - A. The Trinity is like water, steam and ice.
    1. Merits: All three states of water are H<sub>2</sub>O i.e. same essence
    2. Problems: a. A single sample of H<sub>2</sub>O cannot be all three states simultaneously b. Must be self-differentiated AND same essence.
  - B. God is like a man or woman who “wears three hats” or fulfills several functions at the same time
    1. Problems: Modalism- Shifting modes, but same person.

- Working Definition of the Trinity

“One God in three persons” One personal God who works in three ways at the same time. Three *inseparable/concurrent works*, One God: Creation (**Genesis 1:2; John 1:3**), Salvation (**John 3:16; John 6:44**) and Renewal (**Titus 3:5; Ephesians 5:26**).

- **OT Evidence**

In the **Exodus**:

- **Father**: Delivered Israel from Egypt [**Exodus 3:6-8**];
- **Son** (Angel of the Lord): [**Exodus 3:2-6**];
- **Spirit**: [**Numbers 11:25**]

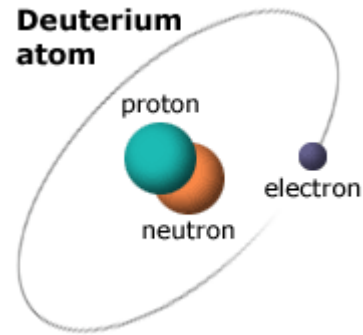
- **NT Evidence**

In the **Resurrection**:

- **Father**: Realized at Calvary (**Isaiah 53:9-12; 1 Peter 1:20, Revelation 5:6; 13:8**);
- **Son**: He said He could lay down His life and pick it back up (John 10:18);
- **Spirit**: Who Gives Life? (John 6:33; Romans 8:11; 2 Cor 3:6)

- What God declares the confessing heart believes without the need further proof (**2 Tim 3:16; Hebrews 11:1-6**)

- Practical Example: The Atom
  - a. Three separate pieces- Protons, neutrons and electrons
  - b. All perpetually working together
  - c. Equally important
  - d. Different but same nature
  - e. One purpose: Cause matter to exist
  - f. All working simultaneously in some way to achieve that purpose.



**B. Points to Ponder** [Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Corinthians 12:4,5]

- **What is the significance** of the fact that there is no fixed order in which the names appear?
- **What is the significance** of the fact that the three names appear together in context of worship or in the context of a discussion of the Christian life?

## **CHAPTER 5: The Self-Existence of God**

*“Man, for all his genius, is but an echo of the Original Voice...”*

### **A. Key Points from the Chapter**

- God is self-caused (**Isaiah 41:4; Isaiah 43:10; Deuteronomy 4:35**)
- It is difficult to grapple with God as the cause of everything and having no cause for Himself (**Isaiah 45:9**)
- Where did God come from? (**Exodus 3:13,14; John 8:58**)
- There is no scientific, empirical method that can “discover” God (**Jeremiah 29:13**)
- We must humbly admit that God’s has no origin (**Job 38:4-7**)
- ***How does the self-existence of God impact my own life?***
  - *Identifies* the root cause of/solution to every problem as being theological in nature (***He made us*: Psalm 139:13-16; Ecclesiastes 12:13; Ephesians 2:10; Solutions: Matthew 11:28; 1 Peter 5:7**)
  - Knowing that God is self-existent and needs no help brings peace to our troubled existences (**Isaiah 26:3; Philippians 4:6,7**)
  - We cannot truly know ourselves until we know something of our creator (**John 1:2; Colossians 1:15-19**)
- Our sinfulness is a challenge of our own self-assertion vs the self-existence of God (**Genesis 3:6,7; Judges 21:25; Isaiah 53:6; Matthew 26:14-16**)
  - We must be careful not to elevate ourselves to our own throne of self (**John 16:8,9; Acts 2:37**)



- Sin dethrones God and enthrones self (**Ezekiel 28:17**)
- The struggle between self-assertion and being obedient will rage until God calls us home (**Romans 7:14-16; Philippians 1:6**)
- ***We must assassinate ANY pretender to the throne of God***  
(**Mark 8:34; Galatians 2:20; Galatians 6:14**)

**B. Points to Ponder [John 1:1; Acts 17:24-26; Galatians 5:16,17,24]**

- What is the significance of the statement “In the beginning was the Word”?
- Does God *need* us?
- Do we need God?
- Do you struggle with God not having a cause/creator?
- Do you struggle with putting your own needs aside and crucifying the flesh?

## CHAPTER 6: The Self-Sufficiency of God

*“The Father has life in Himself”*

### **A. Key Points from the Chapter**

- God is self-sufficient and all life is a gift from God (**John 1:4; Acts 17:28; 1 John 5:11**)
- IF God had a need then God would not be perfect or complete (**Acts 17:25**)
- God’s relationship with creation is voluntary (**Jeremiah 31:3; Deuteronomy 4:37; 1 Corinthians 2:8,9; Philippians 2:13**)
- Why did God even create the universe? (**Genesis 1:9-17**)
- How can anything support God if he upholds everything? (**Hebrews 1:1-3**)
- God does not need our help for any of His undertakings (**Isaiah 9:6; Romans 8:28; Ephesians 1:11; Titus 2:14**)
- The focal point of the Christian is God, not man (**1 Samuel 17:46-51; Psalm 8:4,5; Matthew 6:9,10**)
- Unbelief puts trust in man and not in God (**Colossians 2:8; Hebrews 3:12; Mark 9:24**)
- That Christ came was an act of mercy (**Exodus 33:20; John 1:14; Titus 3:4; Hebrews 12:29**)
- The truth of the self-sufficiency of God removes the burden of performance from man (**Matthew 11:28-30**)

### **C. Points to Ponder [Ephesians 2:10; Hebrews 13:1,2; Matthew 25:34-40; Philippians 4:13; 2 Corinthians 12:9]**

- Do you ever wonder why God created you?
- Does God indeed use man for His purposes
- Have you ever felt like you needed to help God?

## **CHAPTER 7&8: The Eternity & Infinitude of God**

*“I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end...”*

### **A. Key Points from the Chapter**

- Eternity is to God what carbon is to nature (**Psalm 90:2**)
- God’s eternality is essential to Christian doctrine (**John 14:3; 1 Peter 1:20; Hebrews 11:16; Revelation 22:12-14**)
- Time is a manmade construct that does not bind God (**Genesis 1:1; John 1:1; 2 Peter 3:8,9**)
- God lives in an everlasting *now* (**Exodus 3:14; John 8:58**)
- God is unaffected by the changes that time brings about (**2 Timothy 3:1-5**)
- Everything that *will* happened has *already* happened to God (**Isaiah 46:10**)
- God is simultaneously at the beginning of time and at the end of time (**John 1:1; Revelation 1:8**)
- Eternity is where we are safe at last, free at last, at peace at last (**Revelation 22:1-5**)
- Our lives are short compared to eternity (**Job 14:1; 2 Corinthians 4:17; James 4:13,14; 2 Corinthians 7:14**)
- Man is made for eternity but trapped in time (**Ecclesiastes 3:11**)
- Eternity gives us hope that time cannot offer (**2 Corinthians 5:1,2**)
- Infinitude implies the limitlessness of God (**Ephesians 3:18**)
- Our lives are not limitless but eternal life is limitless (**Matthew 6:13; 1 John 2:25**)

- God's grace, mercy and love are limitless (**Romans 5:20; Psalm 103:17; John 15:13**)
- God is measureless but he measures all things
- God cannot increase or decrease because he is already infinite

**D. Points to Ponder [Colossians 1:27; Hebrews 6:19,20; Revelation 7:9,10]**

- Does eternity give you hope?
- Have you ever thought about how long eternity is?
- Do you fear eternity?
- Have you ever thought about what eternity will be like?

## **CHAPTER 9: The Immutability of God**

*“...the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.”*

### **A. Key Points from the Chapter**

- God is immutable meaning that God cannot differ from Himself (Numbers 23:19; Hebrews 6:18)
- God is not “developing” cannot change for the better or degrade; He already IS (**Malachi 3:6**)
- The moral character and divine essence of God are absolute (**Psalm 89:34**)
- God’s immutability ensures that no matter what changes overtake us, He remains the same (**Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 18:2; Psalm 92:15; Psalm 94:22**)
- Mutation and Mortality only affect humanity, not God (**Genesis 3:19; Ecclesiastes 3:20; Romans 5:12; Romans 12:2; Matthew 13:23; Ezekiel 18:31; Ephesians 4:23,24**)
- God uses change to his advantage (**Romans 8:29; Ephesians 1:10; Colossians 1:20**)

### **B. Points to Ponder [Titus 3:5; Philippians 1:6; Genesis 3:21-23; Jeremiah 18:8; Joel 2:13; Jonah 4:2]**

- Has God transformed your life?
- Should we ever consider ourselves as “finished products”?
- Is it good that God allows us to be transformed? [We would be eternally sinful were it not for God banishing us from Eden and THEN providing a way back through Christ, through whom we are reconciled to God.]
- Can God change His mind?

## **CHAPTERS 10-12: The Divine Omniscience, Wisdom and Omnipotence of God**

*“To the only wise God, our savior, be glory, majesty, dominion and power both now and forever more...”*

### **A. Key Points from the Chapter 10**

- Omniscience means that God is all knowing (**Psalm 139:15,16; Isaiah 29:15; Isaiah 48:3; John 1:48-50; Hebrews 4:12,13; Isaiah 48:8-11; Genesis 3:15**)
- God cannot learn because He already knows everything (**Hebrews 2:10,11; 4:15**)
- If God knows all things why does He ask questions? (**Genesis 3:9; Mark 8:29; John 6:67**)

### **B. Key Points from the Chapter 11**

- What exactly is wisdom anyway?
- God’s wisdom is an eternal wisdom (**Proverbs 8:22-31**)
- Wisdom belongs to God (**Daniel 2:20**)
- God will share wisdom with those who ask (**Daniel 2:21; James 1:5; James 3:13-18**)
- God’s wisdom secured our salvation (**Ephesians 3:8-10**)

### **C. Key Points from the Chapter 11**

- Omnipotence means that God is all powerful (**Job 38:31-38**)
- If God is all powerful then He must also be sovereign (**Matthew 28:18**)
- His name “The Almighty” [*El Shaddai*] hints at his power
- God acts without effort (**Genesis 1:3,6,7,9-13; Romans 4:17; Hebrews 1:3**)

**D. Points to Ponder [Proverbs 3:5,6; Job 5:12; Romans 8:28;  
Genesis 45:4-8; Genesis 50:20]**

- What comfort does it bring to know that there is nothing hidden from God?
- What does it mean for God to not lean on our own understanding?
- If God is omnipotent why does he not just *fix* things instantaneously?

## **CHAPTERS 13-14: The Divine Transcendence and Omnipresence of God**

*“Oh Lord, our Lord, there is none like you in heaven above or in the earth beneath...”*

### **A. Key Points from the Chapter 13**

- Transcendent *i.e.* beyond human experience, other, extraordinary...
- Transcendence indicates that there is no comparison of God with any other thing (**Psalm 82:1; John 3:16**)
- Transcendence means that God is totally *other* (**John 4:24; 1 Timothy 1:17**)
- Transcendence means that God is unapproachable (**1 Timothy 6:16; Exodus 33:20; Job 37:23; Romans 5:1,2; Revelation 3:20**)
- God’s Transcendence should produce a holy dread within us (**Genesis 15:12,13; Exodus 3:6; Isaiah 6:4,5; Daniel 10:5-9**)

### **B. Key Points from the Chapter 14**

- God is omnipresent- omni = all
- Is there anywhere that God cannot be? (**Psalm 139:7-12**)
- God’s infinitude extends to His presence (**Psalm 24:1; Ephesians 4:4-6**)
- God as a Spirit inhabits the WHOLE world at once (**2 Chronicles 16:9; Jeremiah 23:24; Jonah 1:3**)
- He is in every place (**Genesis 28:16**)

### **E. Points to Ponder [Isaiah 52:12]**

- What comfort does it bring to know that there is nowhere that God cannot be?



- Can you comprehend the depth of the love of God by His decision to condescend to us?
- Have you ever had an experience and you knew, unequivocally that if God had not been *there* you would have been doomed

## **CHAPTERS 15-16: The Faithfulness and Goodness of God**

*“Great is Thy faithfulness...”*

### **A. Key Points from the Chapter 15**

- God is Faithful (**Numbers 23:19; Deuteronomy 7:9; Deuteronomy 32:4; Lamentations 3:23; 1 Timothy 2:13**)
- IF God is immutable then He must be faithful (**Isaiah 55:9-11**)
- God is His own reason for all He is and does (**2 Kings 20:6; Isaiah 43:25; Isaiah 48:9-11; Ezekiel 20:9**)
- We cannot edit out God’s self-revelation because it is objectionable to us (**Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:6; Revelation 22:18,19**)
- God’s faithfulness means that His promises cannot be broken (**Jeremiah 29:10,11; Zechariah 9:11; 2 Corinthians 1:20; Hebrews 10:23**)

### **B. Key Points from the Chapter 16**

- Jesus made it clear that only God is good (**Mark 10:18**)
- The Bible makes it clear that God is good (**Psalms 100:5; Psalm 145:9; James 1:17**)

- The goodness of God leads Him to be kind, beneficent, gracious, benevolent and tenderhearted (**Exodus 34:6; Psalm 31:19; Ezekiel 11:19; Romans 2:4**)
- The goodness of God drives the blessings that we receive from Him (**Psalm 23:6; Isaiah 33:2; Matthew 7:11; Romans 8:32**)
- God’s goodness was demonstrated at the cross (**Romans 5:6-8**)
- We have a hard time accepting God’s goodness (**Colossians 1:21,22**)
- To fear God and not be afraid is the great paradox of faith (**Proverbs 9:10; 1 John 4:18**)

**C. Points to Ponder [Revelation 1:5; Revelation 3:14; Revelation 19:11; Revelation 22:20]**

- What comfort does it bring to know that God is faithful?
- What does the phrase “God is good” mean to you?
- Is there really any person who is “good” compared to God?
- Do you think God is good because of who we are or because of who He is?

## **CHAPTERS 17-18: The Justice and Mercy of God**

*“He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the lovingkindness of the LORD.”*

### **A. Key Points from the Chapter 17**

- What does the term justice mean? (**Psalm 11:7; Psalm 99:4; Daniel 4:37**)
- God’s justice is meted out to the ones who deserve it (**Genesis 18:22-33**)
- God is a God of equity (**Leviticus 25:13-27; Psalm 97:2; Ezekiel 18:1-3; Galatians 3:28; Isaiah 11:5**)
- We long to see this equity and justice meted out (**Job 19:7; Psalm 37:1,2; Habakkuk 1:2; Zechariah 1:12; Matthew 7:1-5**)
- There is nothing in His justice that precludes him from showing mercy (**Romans 11:22,23; recall Genesis and LOT’s sparing**)
- Justice is not always swift but it is certain (**Revelation 21:1-8**)

### **B. Key Points from the Chapter 18**

- What does the term mercy mean? (**Jeremiah 26:2,3**)
- God is merciful in spite of our wickedness (**Romans 11:30,31; Ephesians 2:1-5; 1 Timothy 1:15,16**)
- God has always been merciful in both Testaments (**Numbers 22:31,32; 2 Samuel 24:15,16; John 3:16; Titus 3:5**)
- God’s mercy is not a temporary mood but a divine attribute (**1 Chronicles 16:34; Psalm 106:1; Luke 6:35,36**)

- Judgment/Justice and Goodness/Mercy work in tandem (**Ezekiel 7:2,3; Ezekiel 18:30-32; Mark 15:33,34**)
- Human misery and suffering call forth God's mercy (**Exodus 6:4-6; Psalm 6:2-4; Luke 18:10-13**)

**D. Points to Ponder [1 Peter 3:18, Romans 5:6-8, Romans 2:4]**

- How can God be just and justify the unjust
- How would you fare if God gave you what you deserved?
- How thankful are you for the mercy of God?
- Do you think that God is merciful to a fault?

## CHAPTERS 19-20: The Grace and Love of God

*“We are saved by grace, through faith...”*

### **A. Key Points from the Chapter 19**

- Grace and Mercy are partners (**Hebrews 4:16**)
- Grace is God’s good pleasure (**Isaiah 1:18**)
- Grace gives us a seat where we had none (**Ephesians 2:4-6; Luke 22:27-30**)
- The channel for God’s grace is Jesus Christ (**John 1:16-18; Ephesians 1:5,6; Colossians 2:9**)
- Grace is not a New Testament phenomenon (Genesis 6:8-10; **Exodus 3:2-4; 1 Samuel 13:14**)
- God’s grace is limitless (**Romans 5:20**)

### **B. Key Points from the Chapter 20**

- Is God love or is love from God? (**1 John 4:16**)
- God’s love is limitless and eternal (**Psalms 25:6; Jeremiah 31:3**)
- God’s love manifests itself in many ways:
  - ★ Goodwill towards us (**Isaiah 1:18; 1 John 4:18**)
  - ★ Making friends of former enemies (**Ephesians 2:12; Colossians 1:21; John 15:14,15**)
  - ★ Emotionally identifying with feeble humanity (**1 John 4:19**)
  - ★ Taking pleasure in His creation (**Psalms 104:31; Zephaniah 3:17; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16; Romans 11:36**)
  - ★ Actively directed towards us (**Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:10**)

- God's love is based on his grace (**John 3:16; Acts 2:5-12; Acts 10:34-36**)

**E. Points to Ponder [Ephesians 2:8,9; John 16:33]**

- How has the grace of God impacted your personal life?
- We must understand that the beloved sometimes suffer due to the sinful condition of the world.

## **CHAPTERS 21-22: The Holiness and Sovereignty of God**

*“You are the Holy One of God...”*

### **A. Key Points from the Chapter 21**

- The holiness of God should produce a feeling of ineptitude within us (**Genesis 3:7; Genesis 15:12; Exodus 3:6; Ezekiel 1:28; Luke 5:8**)
- What God sees when He looks down at us puts life in perspective (**Genesis 6:5,6; Exodus 33:1-3, 15-17; 1 Samuel 15:11; Isaiah 63:10**)
- We are not qualified to appreciate the holiness of God (**Leviticus 11:45; Deuteronomy 32:8**)
- Divine holiness cannot be measured in human terms (**Job 1:1; Job 38:1-4**)
- We cannot compare ANY human to God to get an idea of how holy He is (**Exodus 33:20; Job 37:23; 1 Timothy 6:16**)
- The holiness of God cannot be understood without the aid of the Holy Spirit (**John 8:31,32; John 14:17; John 15:26; John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:9-11; Ephesians 4:30**)
- God is more than just an IT (**Isaiah 44:6; John 1:1; Acts 17:22,23**)

- Holiness is the moral condition necessary for the health of the universe (**Genesis 3:21-24; Genesis 7:1-6; Exodus 20:20; Judges 2:16; Acts 13:21-23**)
- God's holiness is OTHER and man cannot achieve it (**1 Corinthians 1:30; 1 Corinthians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 5:21**)

**B. Points to Ponder [Romans 3:23; Philippians 1:6; Ephesians 1:7-10]**

- Will we ever measure up to God's holiness?
- Is Jesus enough?
- Is there ever a point where we can say that we've arrived?

**C. Key Points from the Chapter 22**

- What is sovereignty? (**Job 23:13**)
- There is nothing unknown to God (**Psalm 33:13; Isaiah 40:27; Hebrews 4:13**)
- God is absolutely free (**Genesis 1:1; John 20:19,20; 2 Peter 3:8**)
- Absolute sovereignty implies absolute authority (**Isaiah 40:12-26**)
- The absolute sovereignty of God produces two problems:
  - ★ The existence of evil (**Genesis 3:6; Romans 5:12; Romans 8:28; 2 Corinthians 4:17,18**)
  - ★ The personal will of man (**Genesis 3:6; Genesis 20:1-3; Jonah 1:1-3; 2 Samuel 11:2,3; Luke 9:57-59; Matthew 26:15**)
- God's sovereignty does not preclude conflict in the physical and spiritual realms (**1 Kings 22:19-22; Job 1:6,7; Ephesians 6:12**)



- How will we use our freedom? (**Joshua 24:15; 1 Kings 18:21; Matthew 3:2**)

#### **D. Points to Ponder**

- When you first heard the Gospel, how did you react?
- Where were you when you made the decision to accept Christ's payment for your sins?
- Do you understand that God's sovereignty cannot be breached by man's disobedience?

## Chapter 23: The Open Secret

*“Glory to God in the Highest...”*

### A. Key Points from the Chapter 23

- We MUST restore the Almighty God back to the church  
**(Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22;**
- You have a role in restoring God to His rightful place in the church  
**(1 Corinthians 12:12-27)**
- Six ways back to God
  1. Forsake our sins and repent **(2 Chronicles 7:14; Psalm 24:4; Hebrews 12:14)**
  2. Fully commit our lives to Christ **(Luke 9:62)**
  3. Reckon ourselves as dead to sin **(Romans 6:5-11; Galatians 6:1-5)**
  4. Don't get in the rat race with the rest of the world **(Matthew 4:8; James 1:27; 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17)**
  5. Meditate on the majesty of God **(Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2; Psalm 8:1-4; Revelation 1:4-8; 12-16; 18)**
    - a. Meditate on His majesty through studying Scripture
    - b. Meditate on His majesty through observing the creation
    - c. Meditate on His majesty through knowing Christ
  6. Glorify God through serving each other **(Romans 12:9-13; Hebrews 10:23-25)**

***THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE HOLY IS LIFE ALTERING!***