

Appointed to Be Eternal Fruit-Bearers

by A.W. Tozer

The Spirit's working in a person is marked by a mighty moral discontent and a consuming spiritual hunger.

Scripture: Psalm 42:1, Matthew 5:6, John 15:16, Hebrews 12:25

Topics: "Transformation through God", "Spiritual Hunger"

Description

A.W. Tozer emphasizes that a true encounter with God transforms a person, leaving them marked by a profound moral discontent and a deep spiritual hunger. He points out that many people find temporary pleasure in sin and become complacent with the world's moral standards, which hinders their ability to repent and believe. Tozer illustrates that true repentance requires a divine work that stirs a dissatisfaction with oneself and the world, contrasting the complacency of Esau with Jacob's spiritual longing. Ultimately, he asserts that genuine spiritual hunger is a sign of God's prior work in a person's heart, as they realize their need for Him.

Transcript

. . . No man is ever the same after God has laid His hand upon him. He will have certain marks, and though they are not easy to detect perhaps we may cautiously name a few. . .

Another mark of the Spirit's working is a mighty moral discontent. In spite of our effort to make sinners think they are unhappy the fact is that wherever social and health conditions permit the masses of mankind enjoy themselves very much. Sin has its pleasures (Hebrews 12:25) and the vast majority of human beings have a whale of a time living. The conscience is a bit of a pest but most persons manage to strike a truce with it quite early in life and are not troubled much by it thereafter.

It takes a work of God in a man to sour him on the world and to turn him against himself; yet until this has happened to him he is psychologically unable to repent and believe. Any degree of contentment with the world's moral standards or his own lack of holiness successfully blocks off the flow of faith into the man's heart. Esau's fatal flaw was moral complacency; Jacob's only virtue was his bitter discontent.

Again before a man can be saved he must feel a consuming spiritual hunger. Anyone who lives close to the hearts of men knows that there is little spiritual hunger among them. Religion, pious talk, yes; but not real hunger. Where a hungry heart is found we may be sure that God was there first. "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you . . ." (John 15:16)

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/aw-tozer/appointed-to-be-eternal-fruit-bearers/>

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