

# Oh!

by A.W. Tozer

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*A.W. Tozer emphasizes the importance of maintaining a heartfelt connection with God, represented by the exclamatory 'Oh!', in contrast to mere theological knowledge.*

**Scripture:** Psalm 46:10, Isaiah 6:5, Jeremiah 1:6, Romans 11:33

**Topics:** "The Nature of Prayer", "Spiritual Awe"

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## Description

A.W. Tozer emphasizes the importance of the exclamatory expression 'Oh!' in our relationship with God, contrasting it with the intellectual confines of theology. He argues that true spiritual experience transcends mere knowledge and invites a heartfelt response to God's presence, which often leaves us in silence and awe. Tozer warns that losing the 'Oh!' in our prayers signifies a dangerous shift towards self-reliance and a lack of genuine connection with God. He encourages Christians to maintain a sense of wonder and reverence in their spiritual lives, ensuring that their prayers are heartfelt rather than merely routine. The sermon concludes with a plea to never lose that profound sense of awe before God.

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## Transcript

Then said I: "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth." --Jeremiah 1:6

To be articulate at certain times we are compelled to fall back upon "Oh!" or "O!"--a primitive exclamatory sound that is hardly a word at all and that scarcely admits of a definition....

In theology there is no "Oh!" and this is a significant if not ominous thing. Theology seeks to reduce what may be known of God to intellectual terms, and as long as the intellect can comprehend it can find words to express itself. When God Himself appears before the mind, awesome, vast and incomprehensible, then the mind sinks into silence and the heart cries out "O Lord God!" There is the difference between theological knowledge and spiritual experience, the difference between knowing God by hearsay and knowing Him by acquaintance. And the difference is not verbal merely; it is real and serious and vital.

We Christians should watch lest we lose the "Oh!" from our hearts....

When we become too glib in prayer we are most surely talking to ourselves. When the calm listing of requests and the courteous giving of proper thanks take the place of the burdened prayer that finds utterance difficult we should beware the next step, for our direction is surely down whether we know it or not. Born After Midnight, pp. 86-87

"Lord, don't ever let me lose the 'Oh!' Amen."

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Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/aw-tozer/oh/>

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