

The Bane of 'Religious Talk'

by A.W. Tozer

A.W. Tozer emphasizes the importance of spiritual experience and the validity of words in our faith, warning against 'religious talk' that lacks real meaning.

Scripture: Matthew 15:8, John 4:24, Romans 12:2, 1 Corinthians 2:14, Ephesians 4:15, Colossians 3:2, 2 Timothy 3:5, Hebrews 6:5, Hebrews 11:1, James 1:22

Topics: "Authenticity in Faith", "The Power of Words"

Description

A.W. Tozer emphasizes the danger of empty religious talk that lacks genuine meaning and connection to reality. He argues that while we cannot physically walk with Christ, we can experience the essence of faith and the spiritual truths of God's kingdom. Tozer warns that many words spoken in religious contexts may simply be hollow phrases without true substance or understanding. He calls for a deeper comprehension of faith that transcends mere verbal expressions, urging believers to seek authentic experiences of God's presence. Ultimately, he challenges the church to ensure that their words reflect true spiritual realities rather than mere phonetic sounds.

Transcript

Now, while we cannot project ourselves backward through time and walk again in Galilee with Christ and His disciples, we can by faith actually experience "the substance of things hoped for"; we can have every sufficient "evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1, KJV); we can taste "the powers of the coming age" (6:5); we can "know" and "comprehend"; we can have the inner witness, the spiritual illumination that brings out the typography of the kingdom of God as clearly as any earthly landscape is revealed by the rising sun. Then every word will be like a sharp, clear shadow thrown by the objects on the terrain, not to stand in place of reality, but to outline it and set it in relief.

A word is valid only when it refers to some reality in the mind of the user.

It must submit to definition as used by the speaker. Its dictionary meaning cannot save it from semantic fraud. It must have a real meaning in its limited context at a given time. By this test an alarmingly great amount of our religious talk is phonetic breath, no more.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/aw-tozer/the-bane-of-religious-talk/>

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