

the crucified life how to live out a deeper christian experience aw tozer

the crucified life how to live out a deeper christian experience aw tozer is a profound exploration of spiritual depth and commitment as taught by A.W. Tozer, one of the most influential Christian thinkers of the 20th century. This article delves into Tozer's teachings on living a life fully surrendered to Christ, emphasizing the significance of self-denial, spiritual discipline, and the transformative power of the cross. By embracing the crucified life, believers are called to experience a deeper Christian walk that transcends superficial faith and leads to genuine intimacy with God. The discussion will cover the theological foundations behind Tozer's message, practical steps for applying these principles, and the spiritual benefits of pursuing such a lifestyle. This comprehensive overview aims to provide clarity and encouragement to Christians seeking a more meaningful and authentic relationship with Christ. Following this introduction, the article is organized into key sections that illuminate how to live out a deeper Christian experience through the lens of A.W. Tozer's teachings.

- Understanding the Concept of the Crucified Life
- Theological Foundations of A.W. Tozer's Teachings
- Practical Steps to Embrace the Crucified Life
- Spiritual Disciplines for Deeper Christian Experience
- The Transformative Power of Surrender and Self-Denial
- Living Out the Crucified Life in Daily Practice

Understanding the Concept of the Crucified Life

The crucified life is a central theme in Christian spirituality that calls for believers to identify with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. A.W. Tozer emphasized that living out a deeper Christian experience involves more than mere belief; it requires a daily surrender to God's will and a willingness to die to self. This concept challenges Christians to relinquish their own desires, ambitions, and comforts in order to fully embrace the life Christ offers. The crucified life is not simply about suffering but about transformation and renewal through spiritual union with Christ's sacrifice.

Definition and Significance

The crucified life can be defined as a lifestyle marked by self-denial, humility, and dependence on God. It signifies a deliberate choice to put to death the fleshly nature and to live according to the Spirit. Tozer taught that this experience is crucial for spiritual growth and maturity, enabling

believers to overcome sin and worldly distractions. The significance lies in its power to produce authentic Christian character and fruitfulness in ministry and daily living.

Key Biblical References

Scripture provides the foundation for understanding the crucified life. Passages such as Galatians 2:20, Romans 6:6, and Luke 9:23 highlight the necessity of dying to self and living in Christ. These verses underscore the transformative nature of the cross and its ongoing relevance in the believer's journey toward holiness.

Theological Foundations of A.W. Tozer's Teachings

A.W. Tozer's theology is deeply rooted in the doctrines of sanctification, the sovereignty of God, and the believer's union with Christ. His writings consistently point to the need for an experiential knowledge of God that surpasses intellectual assent. Tozer argued that the crucified life is the pathway to true spiritual vitality and that without it, Christian faith remains shallow and ineffective.

Sanctification and Spiritual Growth

Tozer emphasized sanctification as the process by which believers are made holy through the power of the Holy Spirit. The crucified life is integral to this process as it involves the daily rejection of sinful tendencies and the cultivation of godly virtues. Tozer saw sanctification not merely as positional but as practical, requiring active participation in spiritual disciplines and surrender.

The Sovereignty of God and Human Surrender

Central to Tozer's message is the acknowledgment of God's absolute sovereignty. Living the crucified life means submitting fully to God's authority and trusting His purposes even in suffering and hardship. This surrender is not passive resignation but an active, faith-filled commitment to God's will.

Practical Steps to Embrace the Crucified Life

Applying the crucified life to daily living involves intentional actions and mindset shifts that align with Tozer's teachings. These practical steps help believers move beyond theoretical knowledge to experiential faith that impacts every aspect of life.

Daily Self-Examination

Regular self-examination is essential for recognizing areas where the flesh remains dominant. Tozer encouraged believers to honestly assess their motives, behaviors, and attitudes in light of Scripture and to confess shortcomings before God. This practice fosters humility and dependence on divine grace.

Intentional Surrender of Desires

To live out a deeper Christian experience, one must actively surrender personal ambitions, comforts, and preferences to God. This includes making conscious choices that prioritize spiritual growth over worldly success or approval.

Consistent Prayer and Meditation

Prayer and meditation on God's Word are vital disciplines that cultivate intimacy with God and reinforce the crucified life. Tozer stressed the importance of communing with God daily to maintain spiritual focus and receive strength for living a surrendered life.

Spiritual Disciplines for Deeper Christian Experience

Spiritual disciplines are practical tools that support the believer's journey into the crucified life. A.W. Tozer highlighted several key disciplines that foster deeper communion with God and greater spiritual sensitivity.

Fasting and Self-Denial

Fasting is a biblical practice that helps believers weaken the power of the flesh and heighten spiritual awareness. Tozer taught that fasting, combined with prayer, opens the heart to God's transformative work and reinforces dependence on Him.

Scripture Study and Meditation

Immersing oneself in Scripture is foundational for understanding God's will and the nature of the crucified life. Meditation on biblical truths deepens faith and aligns the believer's heart with God's purposes.

Worship and Praise

Worship is not only an expression of devotion but also a means of experiencing God's presence. Tozer believed that genuine worship leads to a deeper encounter with God, which is essential for sustaining the crucified life.

The Transformative Power of Surrender and Self-Denial

The crucified life is marked by the transformative effects of surrender and self-denial. A.W. Tozer taught that these elements are not burdensome but liberating, enabling believers to experience true freedom and spiritual vitality.

Freedom Through Surrender

Contrary to worldly assumptions, surrendering to God's will brings freedom from the bondage of sin and selfishness. Tozer described this freedom as the release from the tyranny of the flesh and the entrance into a life empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Renewal of Mind and Heart

Self-denial leads to the renewal of the mind and heart by removing obstacles that prevent spiritual growth. Tozer emphasized that this renewal results in greater clarity, peace, and joy as the believer aligns more closely with God's character.

Fruitfulness in Christian Service

Living the crucified life produces tangible fruit in ministry and relationships. The humility and dependence cultivated through surrender empower believers to serve others effectively and reflect Christ's love authentically.

Living Out the Crucified Life in Daily Practice

Integrating the principles of the crucified life into everyday routines requires commitment and perseverance. Tozer's teachings provide guidance for maintaining this lifestyle amid common challenges and distractions.

Embracing Trials and Suffering

Tozer acknowledged that the crucified life often involves trials, but he encouraged believers to view suffering as a means of spiritual refinement. Enduring hardships with faith deepens reliance on God and strengthens character.

Community and Accountability

Engagement with a community of believers offers support and accountability essential for sustaining the crucified life. Tozer advocated for fellowship that encourages spiritual growth and mutual encouragement.

Continuous Growth and Perseverance

The journey into a deeper Christian experience is ongoing. Tozer reminded believers that perseverance in faith, prayer, and obedience is necessary to fully live out the crucified life and to continue growing in grace.

- Practice regular self-examination and confession
- Prioritize daily prayer and Scripture meditation
- Engage in fasting and worship to deepen spiritual sensitivity
- Submit personal desires to God's sovereign will
- Participate actively in a community of believers
- Embrace trials as opportunities for growth
- Commit to lifelong perseverance in faith

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of A.W. Tozer's 'The Crucified Life'?

The main theme of 'The Crucified Life' is the call for Christians to live a life fully surrendered to Christ, embracing self-denial and the power of the cross to experience a deeper, more authentic Christian walk.

How does A.W. Tozer define 'the crucified life' in his book?

Tozer defines 'the crucified life' as a life in which believers put to death their own desires and ambitions, allowing Christ to live fully in and through them, resulting in true spiritual growth and intimacy with God.

What practical steps does Tozer suggest for living out a deeper Christian experience?

Tozer encourages daily self-examination, surrendering personal will to God, embracing trials as spiritual growth opportunities, persistent prayer, and a focused pursuit of holiness as practical steps toward living a crucified life.

Why does A.W. Tozer emphasize self-denial in 'The Crucified Life'?

Tozer emphasizes self-denial because it is essential to dying to the flesh and allowing Christ to rule the believer's life, which leads to spiritual maturity and a powerful Christian witness.

How can 'The Crucified Life' help modern Christians deepen

their faith?

'The Crucified Life' challenges modern Christians to move beyond superficial faith by embracing surrender, humility, and dependence on God, which fosters a deeper, more transformative relationship with Christ.

What role does the cross play in Tozer's understanding of Christian living?

In Tozer's view, the cross symbolizes the believer's death to self and the beginning of a life empowered by Christ's resurrection, making it central to authentic Christian living and spiritual renewal.

Does A.W. Tozer address the struggles believers face in living a crucified life?

Yes, Tozer acknowledges the difficulties of self-denial and spiritual discipline but assures that through reliance on the Holy Spirit, believers can overcome these struggles and grow stronger in their faith.

How is 'The Crucified Life' relevant to contemporary Christian discipleship?

'The Crucified Life' remains relevant by reminding believers that true discipleship requires ongoing surrender and transformation, countering cultural tendencies toward self-centeredness and encouraging a Christ-centered life.

Additional Resources

1. *The Crucified Life* by A.W. Tozer

This classic work by A.W. Tozer explores the profound meaning of living a life fully surrendered to Christ's crucifixion. Tozer emphasizes the necessity of dying to self daily in order to experience true spiritual vitality. The book challenges believers to embrace a deeper Christian experience marked by holiness and dependence on God.

2. *Living the Crucified Life* by Charles H. Spurgeon

Spurgeon's writings on the crucified life offer practical and heartfelt guidance on how to embody the principles of Christ's sacrifice. He encourages believers to take up their cross and follow Jesus with a renewed commitment to humility and faith. The book is rich with spiritual insights that inspire a deeper walk with God.

3. *The Normal Christian Life* by Watchman Nee

Watchman Nee presents a clear and compelling call to live out the crucified life as the foundation for normal Christian living. He explains how dying to self and living by faith in Christ leads to spiritual maturity and victory over sin. This book is a cornerstone for anyone seeking a deeper relationship with God.

4. *Crucified with Christ: The Theology and Practice of Christian Discipleship* by Kent L. Yinger
Kent Yinger explores the theological basis of the crucified life and its practical implications for discipleship. He delves into how believers can live out their union with Christ's death and resurrection in everyday life. This work combines academic insight with practical application for a holistic Christian experience.

5. *Beyond the Cross: Living the Crucified Life* by John Stott
John Stott's book challenges readers to move beyond mere acknowledgment of the cross to living it out daily. He emphasizes the transformative power of Christ's death and how it enables believers to experience deeper fellowship with God. Stott's clear and accessible writing makes this an essential read for deepening one's faith.

6. *The Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World* by Henri J.M. Nouwen
Though not exclusively about the crucified life, Nouwen's reflections encourage believers to embrace their identity in Christ, which includes dying to self. His compassionate and poetic approach helps Christians navigate spiritual challenges and live authentically in the light of Christ's sacrifice. This book nurtures a deeper Christian experience rooted in love.

7. *Crucifixion of the Flesh* by Andrew Murray
Andrew Murray's writing focuses on the necessity of crucifying the flesh to live a victorious Christian life. He provides practical advice on how to deny self, resist temptation, and grow in holiness. Murray's deep spiritual wisdom has helped many believers pursue a crucified life in earnest.

8. *The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives* by Dallas Willard
Dallas Willard explores spiritual disciplines as the path to living out the crucified life. He argues that intentional practices like prayer, fasting, and solitude help believers die to self and be transformed into Christlikeness. This book offers a comprehensive guide to cultivating a deeper Christian experience through discipline.

9. *Not I, But Christ: The Life of the Apostle Paul* by John R.W. Stott
In this biography of Paul, John Stott highlights how Paul's life exemplified the crucified life philosophy. Paul's journey of surrender, suffering, and faith serves as a model for Christians seeking a deeper experience of Christ. This book inspires readers to embrace self-denial and dependence on God in their own spiritual walk.

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