

*A.W Tozer*



Living Sermons

**OUR WALK IN THE PRESENCE OF  
THE UNSAVED**

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# **Our Walk in the Presence of the Unsaved**

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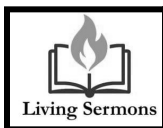
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# Foreword

*This message presses beyond surface devotion into the daily tension of Christian witness in a world that does not share the same life, same Spirit, or same allegiance to truth. It does not romanticise that tension, nor does it reduce it to sentiment. Instead, it brings the reader into a sober awareness of what it means to walk faithfully in ordinary spaces—among neighbours, colleagues, classmates, and strangers who do not believe.*

*What emerges throughout this sermon is not complexity, but clarity. The Christian life, as presented here, is not sustained by explanation alone, but by dependence—on God, on prayer, and on the inward help of the Holy Spirit in applying truth to living situations that are never identical.*

*Tozer draws attention to something the modern reader easily forgets: Scripture is not given merely for information, but for formation. Its principles are broad, but their outworking is deeply personal, requiring humility and continual reliance upon God. This dependence is not weakness; it is the very condition of spiritual authenticity.*

*In a time when Christianity is often reduced to expression without endurance, this message calls the reader back to steady living. Not performance. Not reaction. But a consistent walk that speaks even when words are not offered.*

*As you read, you will find yourself confronted not by abstraction, but by life itself—how it is lived, observed, misunderstood, and ultimately vindicated in God's timing.*

**— Wisdom Epsi**  
**Chief Editor, LivingSermons.com**

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# Publisher's Note

This book is a faithful transcript of a live sermon delivered by the preacher under the inspiration and unction of the Holy Spirit. Every effort has been made to preserve the preacher's exact words, tone, flow, and spiritual authority, while carefully proofreading and formatting the message into a clear and readable ebook format.

The message you are about to read was originally ministered in a live congregational setting. As such, it carries the weight, urgency, and atmosphere of that sacred gathering. Minor grammatical and structural adjustments have been made solely to enhance readability, without altering the substance, intent, or power of the original delivery.

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Our commitment is excellence without dilution.

Our standard is reverence for the Word of God.

Our daily goal is to transform powerful live sermons into polished PDF and ebook editions for the edification of the Body of Christ.

It is our prayer that as you read, the same grace, conviction, clarity, and impartation present in the live service will minister to you afresh.

— *Livingsermons.com*

*A Spirit-led Publishing Stewardship*

# ***Main Message***

*Begins Here*



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## Introduction

Such is the fullness of Biblical inspiration and the inadequacy of the average preacher that one verse written by an apostle can provide a whole sermon for the preacher.

So we take one verse out of Peter's First Epistle, the second chapter, and seek to bring some helpful thoughts from it as God may enable.

“Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

— 1 Peter 2:12 (KJV)

Of course, you will understand the construction here. We break right into the middle of the sentence, following a semicolon: *having*.

What Peter is saying is simply this: **Have your conversation honest among the Gentiles**, or, in modern language, **live honestly among the Gentiles**.

For *conversation* does not mean talk, as it often does today. In the language of the King James Version, it means one's manner of life, one's conduct, one's way of living.

# What Should Be My Attitude Toward the Unsaved?

One of the great questions every earnest Christian must settle is this:

## **What should be my attitude toward the Gentiles?**

By *Gentiles* here we simply mean the unsaved among whom we live.

What should be my attitude toward the unsaved people with whom I am compelled to spend most of my lifetime?

And when I say *most of my lifetime*, I am speaking accurately.

Christians tend to flock together, but even so, the greater part of a Christian's life on earth is likely to be spent among those who do not know God.

# Why Christians Naturally Gather Together

First, let us notice that Christians do tend to flock together.

They come together in meetings such as this. They gather in churches, conferences, prayer meetings, and fellowship gatherings. Whether it is the humble Sunday school picnic or the most formal religious service, people who profess Christianity gather together—and true Christians gather together as well.

The reasons are many.

## A Different Race

In the first place, Christians belong to another race.

I repeat that because I have said it before.

Peter writes:

“Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people.”

— 1 Peter 2:9 (KJV)

We form a distinct people within the race into which we were originally born.

We are strangers in the world, but not strangers to one another.

It is natural for human beings to seek the company of their own people because they understand one another's language.

I can understand why Polish people, Swedish people, Lithuanian people, and even German people tend to stay close together. We may call it clannishness, but often it is

simply because they enjoy hearing someone speak without an accent—someone who speaks the language of home.

They hear again the sounds they first heard in childhood, and those familiar sounds bless their ears.

If you want to please a Scotsman—and I cannot do it, though Macbeth tries—just begin speaking in broad Scottish tones, and his face will light up. He is hearing the language that reminds him of home.

Groups gather because they understand one another.

And Christians gather because they understand one another's language.

## **“I Understand the Language”**

A minister of the Gospel called me recently. After discussing several matters, he said:

“Mr. Tozer, I listen to your broadcasts every Saturday morning, and I enjoy hearing them.”

Then I heard a female voice in the background. He paused and said:

“Just a moment. My wife wants me to tell you that she understands the language.”

That expression may not mean much to some of you, but it was a familiar phrase in the old holiness meetings.

An elderly saint might smile and say:

“I understand the language, brother.”

Perhaps she would quietly raise a hand toward heaven while the congregation sang.

She understood the language.

And Christians still enjoy gathering together because they understand one another's language—the language of grace, redemption, holiness, prayer, and worship.

## **Members of the Same Family**

Christians also gather because they belong to the same family.

Families naturally enjoy being together.

The Tozers may be an exception. I have relatives I have not seen for years. Last winter I was within two hundred miles of a brother I had not seen for five or six years and still did not visit him. We are good friends; we simply do not gather much.

But most families do.

Family reunions, particularly in rural communities, are great occasions. Relatives come from every direction. Some have never met before. New children have been born since the previous gathering.

Families come together because they share a bond that belongs nowhere else on earth.

Christians belong to the household of God.

God is our Father.

We are members of one family.

That is another reason we delight in Christian fellowship.

## **Similar Interests Draw People Together**

People with common interests naturally seek one another out.

If two photography enthusiasts begin discussing cameras, shutters, lenses, and exposure speeds, the rest of us may as well remain silent.

The same is true of golfers, baseball fans, hunters, philosophers, or literary scholars.

A group of old hunters around a country-store stove can talk for hours.

Why?

Because they share a common interest.

People who care deeply about the same thing are drawn together.

Christians also have a common interest.

Indeed, our interest is not divided among many things. It is centred upon one glorious Person and one eternal kingdom.

That shared interest continually draws believers together.

## **Strength for a Minority**

Christians also gather because there is moral encouragement in being surrounded by others who believe the same truths.

A minority group gains courage when it discovers it is not alone.

Thus, for all these reasons, Christians gather together.

Yet after all has been said, one fact remains:

The average Christian spends most of his life among the unsaved.

## **Living Among the Gentiles**

The greater number of hours, days, months, and years of the average Christian's life are spent among people who do not share his faith.

Consider your workplace.

Some of you never knowingly see another Christian from the moment you leave home in the morning until you return at night.

You may pass believers on the street, but you do not know them.

Practically speaking, you spend the day among Gentiles.

Some of you have no Christians in your home. Therefore, from the moment you leave church on Sunday evening until the next service, you may spend your entire week among unbelievers.

The overwhelming majority of your time is spent among those who are not Christians at all.

## **In Travel, Business, School, and Neighbourhood**

I was thinking recently about the Christians I have met while travelling.

I have travelled extensively throughout the United States, yet I remember only one man whom I immediately recognised as a genuine believer. He was a porter who noticed me reading my Bible.

I always travel with my Bible, notebooks, pens, and work materials. Railway employees notice these things, but only that one porter ever spoke appreciatively about the Bible.

You do not often encounter Christians while travelling.

And consider your business dealings.

How many Christians did you buy from this week?

If you are in sales, how many Christians did you sell to?

Unless you work for a Christian organisation, most of your business interactions are with unbelievers.

Consider the classroom.

A student may sit among thirty or forty classmates. How many of them are truly Christians?

Look at your neighbourhood.

How many believers live beside you?

How many live on your street?

Occasionally there may be several Christian homes together, but generally speaking, God has scattered His people throughout society like salt spread across the earth.

Salt is effective because it is dispersed. Believers are similarly scattered.

## The Great Question

Since we spend only a few hours each week with Christians and many hours among unbelievers, the question becomes exceedingly important: **What should my attitude be toward the unsaved?**

God answers with a broad principle:

“Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles.”

— 1 Peter 2:12 (KJV)

Various translations render the thought:

- Let your conduct be seemly.
- Let it be good and right.
- Let it be beyond reproach.
- Let it be upright.

In every case, Peter is calling believers to a life that is visibly honourable before the watching world.

## God's Broad Precepts

Notice something important. God does not usually give detailed instructions for every circumstance. Instead, He lays down broad principles. The application of those principles is left to the circumstances, the moment, and the individual believer. Here is something worth remembering: **God never tells us anything that will enable us to get along without Him.**

Remember that.

God lays down great principles of righteousness and then requires us to depend upon Him for their application.

## The Need for the Holy Spirit

Many people approach Christianity this way:

“I have my Bible. I know exactly what to do. Here is the verse. There is the answer.”

That is often the attitude of an unspiritual orthodoxy that assumes it knows everything because it can quote a text. But the text is only the broad precept. To apply that precept in actual life requires something more. It requires the living presence of the Holy Spirit.

It requires humility.

It requires faith.

It requires earnest prayer.

Often it requires painful cross-bearing.

Only then can the principle become a living reality.

Orthodoxy says:

“I know the answer. Here it is in seven doctrines.”

The humble Christian knows better.

He gladly embraces sound doctrine, but he also knows that applying truth correctly in a specific situation demands continual dependence upon God.

Sometimes it requires prayer.

Sometimes fasting.

Sometimes sacrifice.

Always it requires the Holy Spirit.

## **God Never Intends Us to Live Without Him**

Never imagine that God has handed you a rulebook and then departed.

He has not said:

“Here are the regulations. Follow them, and I will see you at the gates of heaven.”

No.

God says:

“My child, here are My precepts. Here are the principles of righteousness. But do not become self-confident. Circumstances change. Situations differ. Human weakness remains. Therefore, lean hard upon Me. Trust Me constantly. Pray continually.”

Otherwise, you will not know how to apply those principles when the hour of testing comes.

Always remember:

**God never tells you anything that will enable you to get along without Him.**

Even if you memorised the entire Bible, you would still need the presence of God and the living ministry of the Holy Spirit to help you obey even the smallest verse in it.

God keeps us dependent upon Him.

We like to nail everything down, place markers everywhere, and settle every question permanently.

But God keeps us close to Himself.

And that is where true Christian living begins.

And when friends come, be able to point and say, “There is my religion. Look at that. Isn’t that solid—four legs, solid on the floor. There it is!”

We like it that way. And we like to get hold of our verses and then say, “Now I know how to run my life.”

And God says, *No, My child, you only know the broad outline. The details must be filled in by prayer, faith, and humility.*

Now the broad precept He lays down here—the attitude of the Christian—is this:

Be honest among the Gentiles; be seemly and good and right and beyond reproach and upright.

You see, those are all broad. There are no details given.

But this is at the beating heart of it. This is first, because it is indispensable to know all the rules in the Book. But unless you live a life that is honest, seemly, and beyond reproach, it will mean nothing to the Gentiles.

## **“Though They May Slander You in the Usual Way”**

Then he says, though they may slander you. I have a notion I am reading from some other version, I guess I am.

Though they may speak against you as evil-doers.

Now one version has a phrase I rather like. It says, *though they slander you in the usual way*. There is something sadly humorous about that—“in the usual way,” as though it is expected, as though it is normal procedure.

In other words, you understand the language. You know what I mean.

They slander you in the usual way. Nevertheless, they are going to have to glorify God in the day of visitation. However we live now, those Christians in Peter’s day expected to be slandered. It was standard procedure. And when somebody says, “I’ve been slandered,” somebody else says, “As usual.”

In the usual way.

# Why the Unsaved React Against the Christian

Now why do unsaved Gentiles want to slander Christians?

There are several reasons.

One is that the once-born react instinctively against the twice-born. This is a truth not widely understood today, but it is real. And if God ever sends revival to the world, we will see it clearly again.

There is a hostility of nature. Cain and Abel—Cain reacted against Abel. The natural man against the spiritual man. I do not know what scientists call it now, but there used to be a phrase—*natural enmity*.

There are creatures in nature that instinctively fear others, even without prior contact. A horse, for example, will tremble and panic at the smell of a bear, even if it has never seen one before.

It is instinct.

It is not experience.

It is nature.

So the world may never have seen a Christian before, yet reacts against him. When missionaries first went into China, they were called “foreign devils.” Not because of what they did, but because of what they were.

The Christian carries another Spirit. And the world carries another spirit. And those spirits never agree.

# Truth About Opposition and Slander

Someone once said such preaching might discourage young believers. But truth never destroys the work of God. It is dangerous to present a half-Christianity, and then when pressure comes, the young believer falls away, and we call him a backslider.

No.

He never understood what he had.

Tell the truth, brethren.

The world will slander you—in the usual way.

There is also jealousy.

The unsaved are often put to shame by the life of the Christian, and they react against it, as Cain was jealous of Abel. Yet beneath the hostility there is often something else—something hidden.

A longing.

A silent desire to be what the Christian is.

## A Witness Without Words

I was converted at seventeen.

There were young men who watched me as I came and went among them. I did not mingle as before.

One of them later said:

“The thing that brought conviction to me was just your going and coming. You didn’t mingle—you just passed through.”

There was something that worked beneath the surface. The presence of a righteous life among the unsaved is one of God's most powerful instruments in preparing men for the Gospel. Yes, there is bravado.

There is bluster.

But beneath it, often, is uncertainty. And in every man, God has placed eternity within the heart. So when he sees another man who seems to have found what he was made for, there is unrest within him.

He may speak against it.

He may mock it.

But he is not settled.

## **Good Works That Disarm Opposition**

Scripture says:

“They see your good works.”

A moral being cannot argue successfully against righteousness for long.

History proves it.

A nation cannot sustain itself against righteousness indefinitely.

Evil may roar.

It may dominate headlines.

It may shout loudly across generations.

But it does not endure forever.

Where is it in the end?

## **The Witness of a Quiet Life**

There are still people everywhere who believe in righteousness quietly, even under pressure.

And if ever oppression is broken, righteousness rises again.

You cannot successfully argue against a righteous life.

When people see good works, something happens: their arguments lose force.

They may still speak.

They may still criticize.

But something inside them has already been affected.

## **“They Shall Glorify God in the Day of Visitation”**

Then it says they shall glorify God in the day of visitation.

Translators are not agreed whether this means the day of trouble in life, or the final day of judgment.

I do not claim to know.

It may mean either.

Or both.

But there is a principle here.

Even those who once spoke against the believer may one day be brought into circumstances where they acknowledge God's hand.

# The Quiet Power of Consistent Living

There is something to be said for simply living right over time.

People may call a man a fanatic.

They may say he is unusual.

But when crisis comes, they know where to go.

They may laugh at him.

They may mock him.

But when trouble comes, they send for the man of God.

Always.

That is the way it works.

# Living a Life That Outlasts Criticism

You may be misunderstood.

You may be slandered.

But if you remain steady, there comes a time when your life speaks louder than criticism.

Just stay. Just live right. Let time pass. Let months pass. Let years pass.

And something happens that argument cannot undo.

# The Final Test of a Life

At last, when crisis comes, your life is remembered differently.

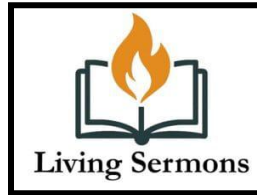
And in some way, even those who once opposed you are forced to acknowledge what God has done.

That is what Peter said.

All we have done is illustrate it.

May God help us to live it.

Amen.

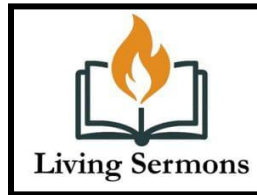


## About the Speaker

**Aiden Wilson Tozer** (21 April 1897 – 12 May 1963) was an American pastor, preacher, editor, devotional writer, and prominent leader within the **Christian and Missionary Alliance**. Widely regarded as one of the most influential voices in twentieth-century evangelical Christianity, Tozer's ministry was marked by a passionate call to deeper fellowship with God, personal holiness, and spiritual renewal.

Associated with evangelicalism, the Holiness movement, and Keswick spirituality, Tozer became best known through his devotional classics, particularly *The Pursuit of God* (1948) and *The Knowledge of the Holy* (1961). These works continue to inspire Christians worldwide, emphasizing the necessity of knowing God personally rather than merely knowing about Him. His writings consistently called believers to holiness, contemplative prayer, reverence for God, self-denial, death to self, and a continual awareness of God's presence.

Tozer believed that the modern Church often suffered from spiritual shallowness and urged believers to pursue a deeper, more intimate relationship with God. His messages challenged Christians to move beyond religious routine and cultivate a genuine life of worship, prayer, and surrender.



## About Living Sermons

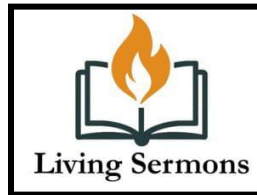
**Living Sermons** is a Spirit-led publishing platform dedicated to transforming timeless messages of God’s servants into books that can reach and impact lives across the world.

Our mission is simple: to preserve the wisdom, revelation, and anointing carried in the preached Word and make it accessible in formats that can be studied, shared, and revisited for generations. By turning sermons into high-quality Christian books and eBooks, we extend the life and influence of each message far beyond the pulpit.

At Living Sermons, we believe that the preached Word is living and powerful (Hebrews 4:12). Every sermon carries truth that can instruct, comfort, rebuke, inspire, and transform. Our role is to faithfully capture these words, polish them for clarity and readability, and present them in a way that maintains the preacher’s unique voice and anointing.

Through our work, messages that might otherwise be heard once are preserved as lasting resources for teaching, devotion, discipleship, and evangelism. These books are designed not just for reading but for equipping believers, strengthening families, and advancing the Kingdom of God.

Living Sermons—*the preached Word in lasting form.*



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We are inviting passionate believers to volunteer in any of these roles:

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- **Editors** – Refine transcripts into polished, readable eBooks.
- **Bloggers** – Create SEO-friendly posts to share new books.
- **Social Media Managers** – Share books online and engage our community.
- **Language Translators**
- **Graphics Designers**

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