

**“DEFENDER”**

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**A.W. Tozer said... “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”**

**Let’s try to better understand Tozer’s argument.**

- Tozer is saying that when you think about God, what you think about God will shape everything about you...
  - It will shape how you interact with others in your relationships.
  - It will shape how you interact with your finances.
  - It will literally shape everything about your life...

**“If in your mind when you think about God, you think He is gracious and kind and loving and forgiving, then when you think about God, that thought about God then shapes your ability to be gracious and generous to others. – A. Howard”**

- If I believe God is generous and gracious, then I am more likely to be gracious and generous to others.

**On the flipside of things... “If you believe God is perpetually disappointed in you, that every time God sees you, He just kind of has a kind of retching kind of reaction then more than likely going to have kind of this low-grade agitation because you’re never quite able to measure up, and you don’t even know what the standard is.”**  
**– A. Howard**

- This of course bleeds into your relationship with others and how you handle everything. So, in this context...

**“To see God properly, correctly, is to have the whole of our lives ordered in a way that is beautiful, right, and good.”**

**“To see God wrongly means we will make a mess of things even with our best intentions and so live in darkness and confusion.”**

**This is exactly what Jesus is speaking about when He says...**

*(Vs) John 8:12b - "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."*

*(Vs) John 8:32 - "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

**But He doesn't stop there... He goes on to say...**

*(Vs) John 8:34b - "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin."*

- They are a slave to the lies and confusion they live in... And the one who is the Father of Lies...

*(Vs) John 8:44 - "You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies."*

**Important: "The greatest damage the devil does is brought about through his Lies... Lying is what he does best."**

- In fact, it literally defines who he is... "Father of Lies."
- Now yes, the truth is that the enemy was defeated at the cross.
- The Bible even describes his humiliating defeat in...

*(Vs) Colossians 2:13-15 - "And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him."*

- This is a Fact: "The victory now belongs to Jesus and we get to share in that victory as children of God."
- **But also, Fact:** "Even though the enemy can't change what Jesus did on the cross, he can certainly lie to us in an attempt to keep us from fulfilling our God-given destinies and to stunt our growth as Believers."

**Therefore... "It is when we recognize the lies of the enemy that we can best combat them with the truth."**

- So Powerful... Yet such a difficult thing to do because Satan is gifted at Lying...

**Examples of the some of the Enemy's Clever Lies...**

**“Did God really say that?”**

- This was one of the first lies ever told to mankind by the enemy.
- *(Vs) Gen. 3:1 – Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”*
- In the Garden of Eden, Eve was enticed because the Devil convinced her that God’s Word couldn’t be trusted.

**“You are inadequate!”**

- If we believe we can’t... we won’t. But the truth is that God has equipped us to do all He has called us to do...
- *(Vs) Phil. 4:13 – “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”*

**“You will never be able to overcome that sin in your life!”**

- This is just who I am. I can never change.
- *(Vs) 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 5:17 – “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”*

**“You have to be perfect.”**

- Some of us buy into the lie that we have to be perfect in order for God to love us... but Jesus died for us while we were still sinners, so we know this to be a lie.
- *(Vs) Rom. 5:8 – “But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

**“The enemy still has authority, and we should be afraid of him.”**

- Before ascending into heaven, Jesus claimed to have been given ALL authority on earth and in heaven.
- *(Vs) Matthew 28:18 – And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”*
- This means that the enemy has NO authority.
- The Bible also says he has been disarmed...
- *(Vs) Colossians 2:15 – “He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”*
- His only power comes from his deception... This all means... “If you are armed with the truth, the Enemy’s lies have no power in your life whatsoever.”
- He only gains power when you believe him.
- To accept God’s Truth is to accept the loving deliverance being freely offered!
- *(Vs) Deut. 32:4 (GNT) – “The Lord is your mighty defender, perfect and just in all His ways; Your God is faithful and true; He does what is right and fair.”*

Today God wants to defend you from the lies that have been spoken about you!

## DEFENDER

You go before I know  
That You've even gone to win my war  
You come back with the head of my enemy  
You come back and You call it my victory

You go before I know  
That You've even gone to win my war  
Your love becomes my greatest defense  
It leads me from the dry wilderness

And all I did was praise, all I did was worship  
All I did was bow down, all I did was stay still

Hallelujah, You have saved me, so much better Your way  
And hallelujah, Great Defender, so much better Your way

You know before I do  
Where my heart can seek to find Your truth  
Your mercy is the shade I'm living in  
You restore my faith and hope again

And all I did was praise, all I did was worship  
All I did was bow down, I'm just gonna stay still

Hallelujah, You have saved me, so much better Your way  
Oh hallelujah, Great Defender, so much better Your way  
And hallelujah, You have saved me, so much better Your way  
Oh hallelujah, Great Defender, so much better this way!

And when I thought I lost me, You knew where I left me  
You reintroduced me to Your love, You picked up all my pieces, put me back together  
You are the Defender of my heart  
And when I thought I lost me, You knew where I left me  
You reintroduced me to Your love, You picked up all my pieces  
Put me back together, You are the Defender of my heart  
And when I thought I lost me, You knew where I left me  
You reintroduced me to Your love, You picked up all my pieces, put me back together  
You are the Defender of my heart