

'Nor Wanting, Nor Wasting': The Overflowing God

Introduction - What makes you valuable?

1) Our God is full

⁵Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the skies.

⁶Your righteousness is like the highest mountains,
your justice like the great deep.
You, Lord, preserve both people and animals.

⁷How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!
People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

⁸They feast on the abundance of your house;
you give them drink from your river of delights.

⁹For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.

Psalm 36: 5-9

"For as the Father has life in himself, he has granted the Son also to have life in himself." John 5:26

"God is infinitely happy in the enjoyment of himself" Jonathan Edwards

2) Our God needs nothing

*"To speak of God in need would be absurd
As Tozer said, 'need is a creature word'"* Shai Linne

"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else." Acts 17:24-25

Psalm 50:7-15

"probably the hardest thought of all for our natural egotism to entertain is that God does not need our help. We commonly represent Him as a busy, eager, somewhat frustrated Father hurrying about seeking help to carry out his benevolent plan to bring peace and salvation to the world... too many missionary appeals are based upon this fancied frustration of Almighty God. An effective speaker can easily excite pity in his hearers, not only for the heathen but for the God who has tried so hard and so long to save them and has failed for want of support. I fear that thousands of young persons enter Christian service from no higher motive than to help deliver God from the embarrassing situation his love has got Him into and His limited abilities seem unable to get him out of." A.W. Tozer

3) Our God overflows

- Why create?

- Why save?

“one must face the fact that all the talk about love for men, and his service being perfect freedom, is not (as one would gladly believe) mere propaganda, but an appalling truth. He really does want to fill the universe with a lot of loathsome little replicas of himself - creatures, whose life, on its miniature scale, will be qualitatively like his own, not because he has absorbed them but because their wills freely conform to his. We want cattle who can finally become food, he wants servants who can finally become sons. We want to suck in, he wants to give out. We are empty and would be filled; he is full and flows over.”

Screwtape Letters

So what...

- Embrace neediness

With others “carry each other’s burdens” Galatians 6:2

With the Lord “call on me in the day of trouble” Psalm 50:15

- In gratitude enjoy his gifts

“sacrifice thank-offerings to God” Psalm 50:14

- Feast on Christ

“They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights.” Psalm 36:8

Review questions

- 1) In what ways do you seek to understand yourself as valuable?
- 2) What difference does it make to relating to God to know he is full?
- 3) Why might it be unsettling to realise that God needs absolutely nothing from us?
- 4) How can we learn to make our primary posture to God one of empty handed receiving rather than offering him things?