

# ***WHERE IS GOD?***

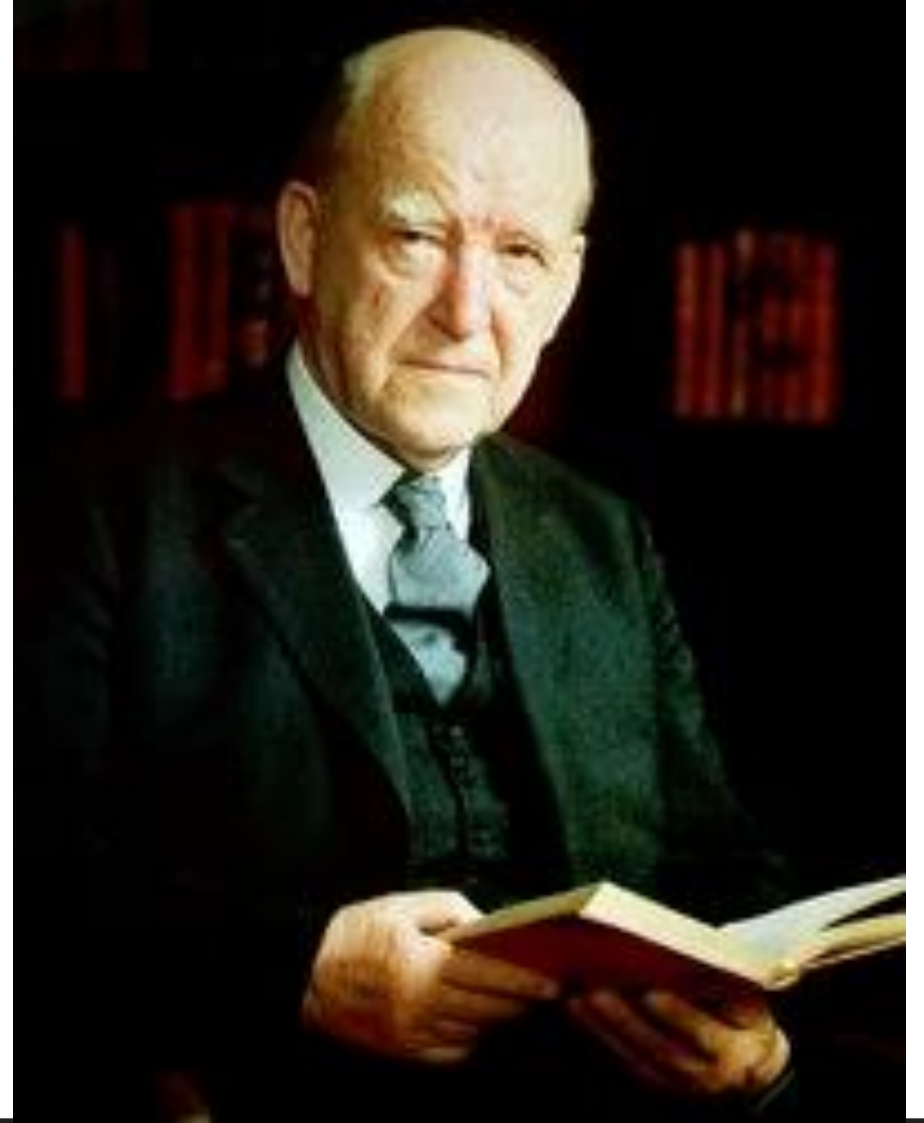
A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF HABAKKUK



**“Honest Questioning”**

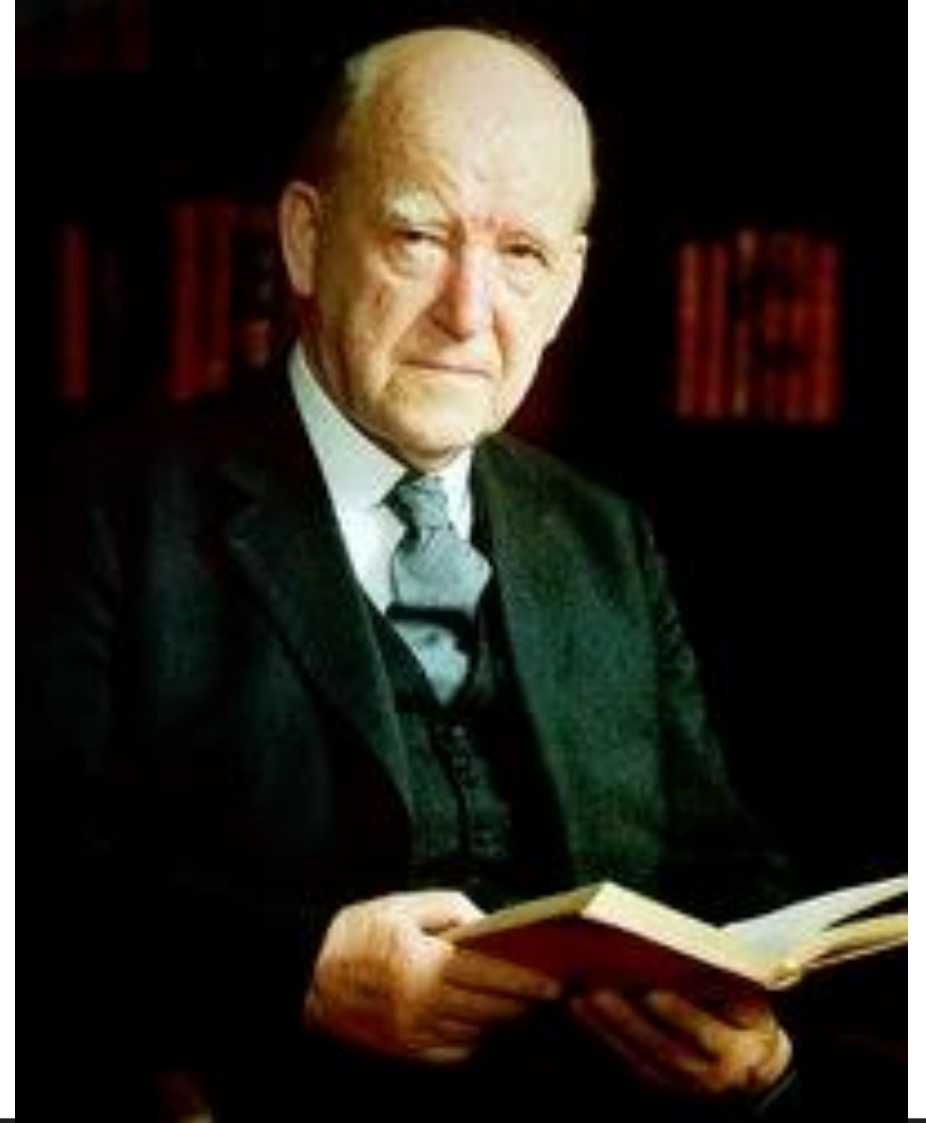
**HABAKKUK 1:12-2:1**

“It is much more important that we should know the method of approach than that we should have pat answers to particular problems. People usually want a clear answer to a specific question, but the Bible does not always give us what we desire in this respect. It does, however, teach us a method...



**Martyn Lloyd-Jones,**  
***Faith: Tried and Triumphant***

“...We are apt to panic and to jump to false conclusions when the unexpected happens and when God is dealing with us in a strange and unusual manner.”



**Martyn Lloyd-Jones ,  
*Faith: Tried and Triumphant***

1. Stop.
2. Restate.
3. Apply.
4. Pray.

## **Four Steps for Addressing Problems**

I. Stop to think.

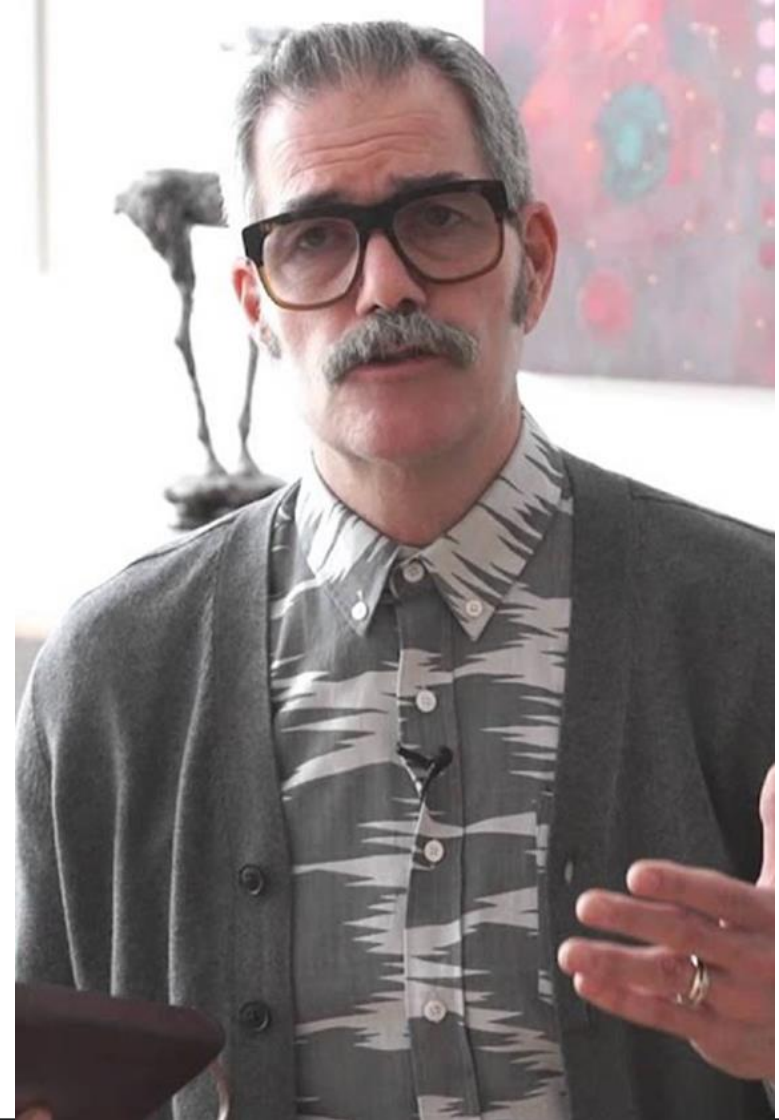
# Four Steps to Addressing Problems

## 1. Stop to think

- Have you defined the problem well?
- Why is it a problem?
- What would be the outcome if the problem were never resolved?

"I don't understand what God is up to."

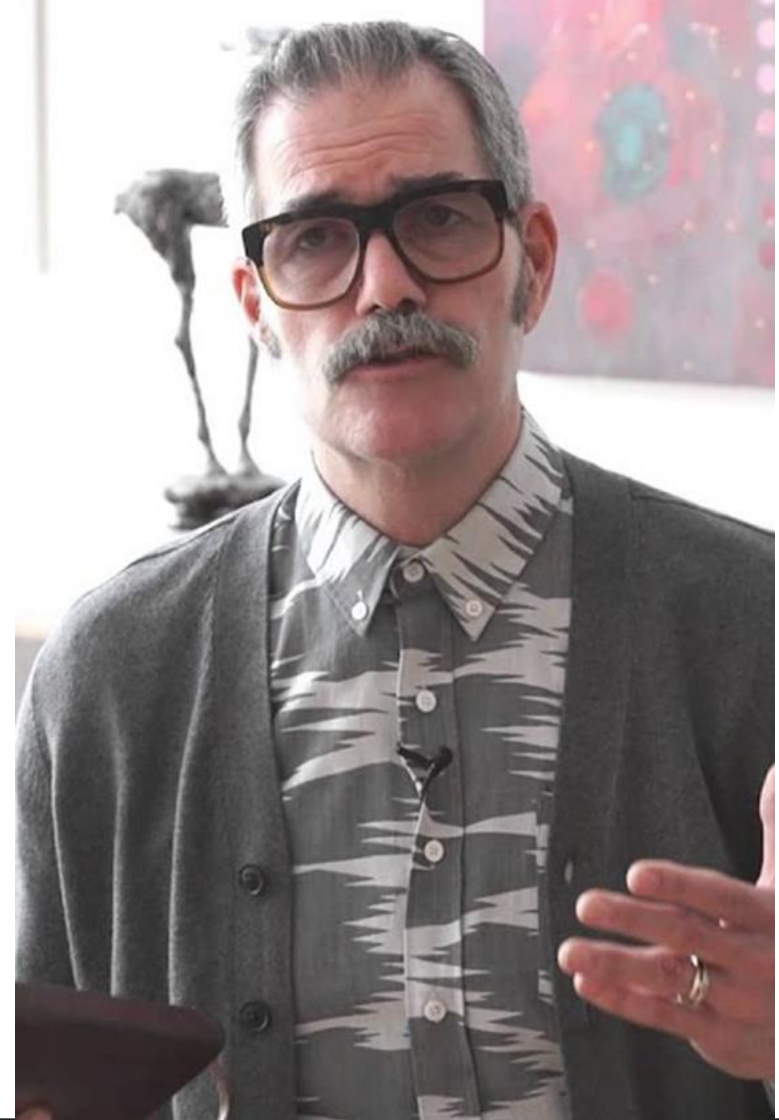
“I have come to understand that I am not the author of my own story. My narrative is being penned by one who is the definition of all that is wise, loving, pure, true, and good. But since I am in the story but not the author of the story, I am often called to wait. I wish I could say that I wait...



**Paul Tripp,**  
***Broken Down House***



“...well but I don’t.  
I wish I could say that I  
never question your  
wisdom, but I do.  
So, Lord, once more I ask  
for the grace to wait not  
only so I can get what I’m  
waiting for but so that I  
will become what you  
want me to become as  
I wait.”

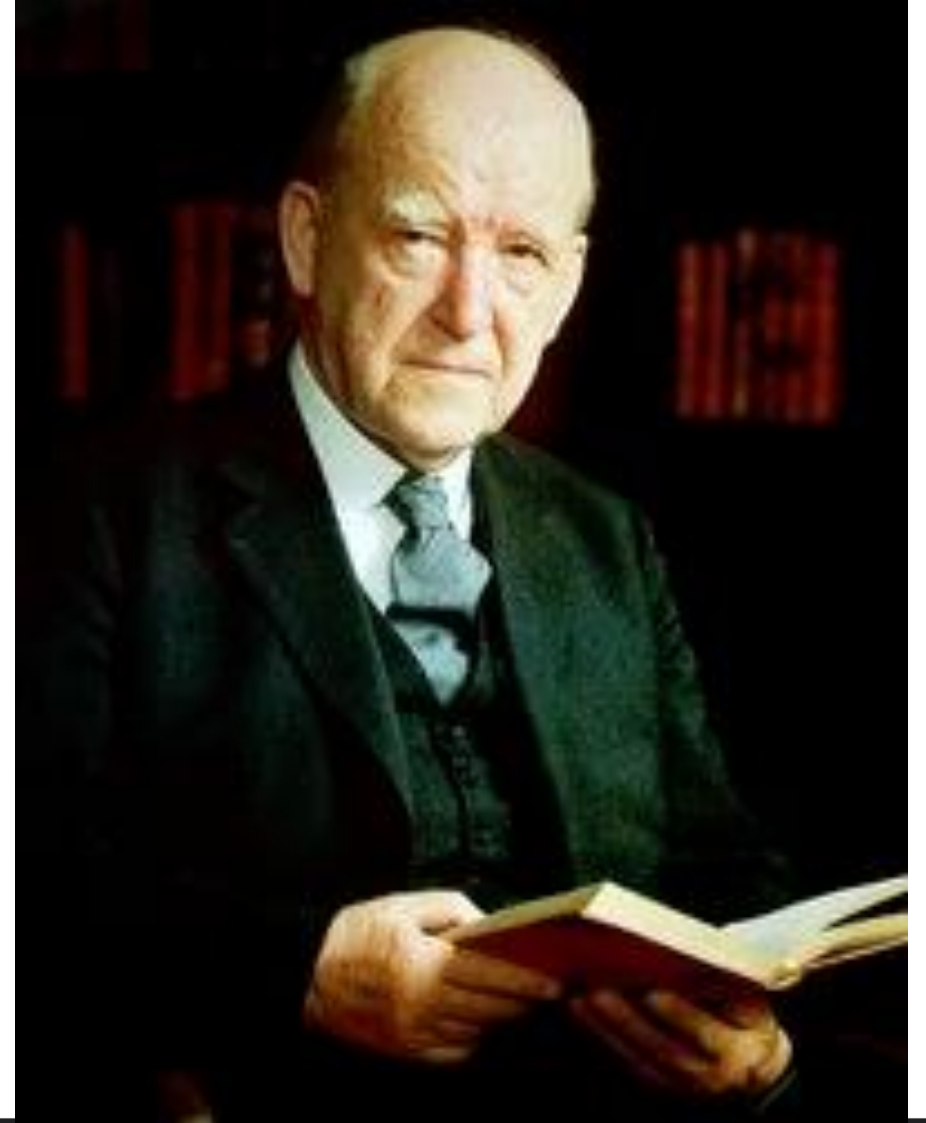


**Paul Tripp,**  
***Broken Down House***

I. Stop to think.

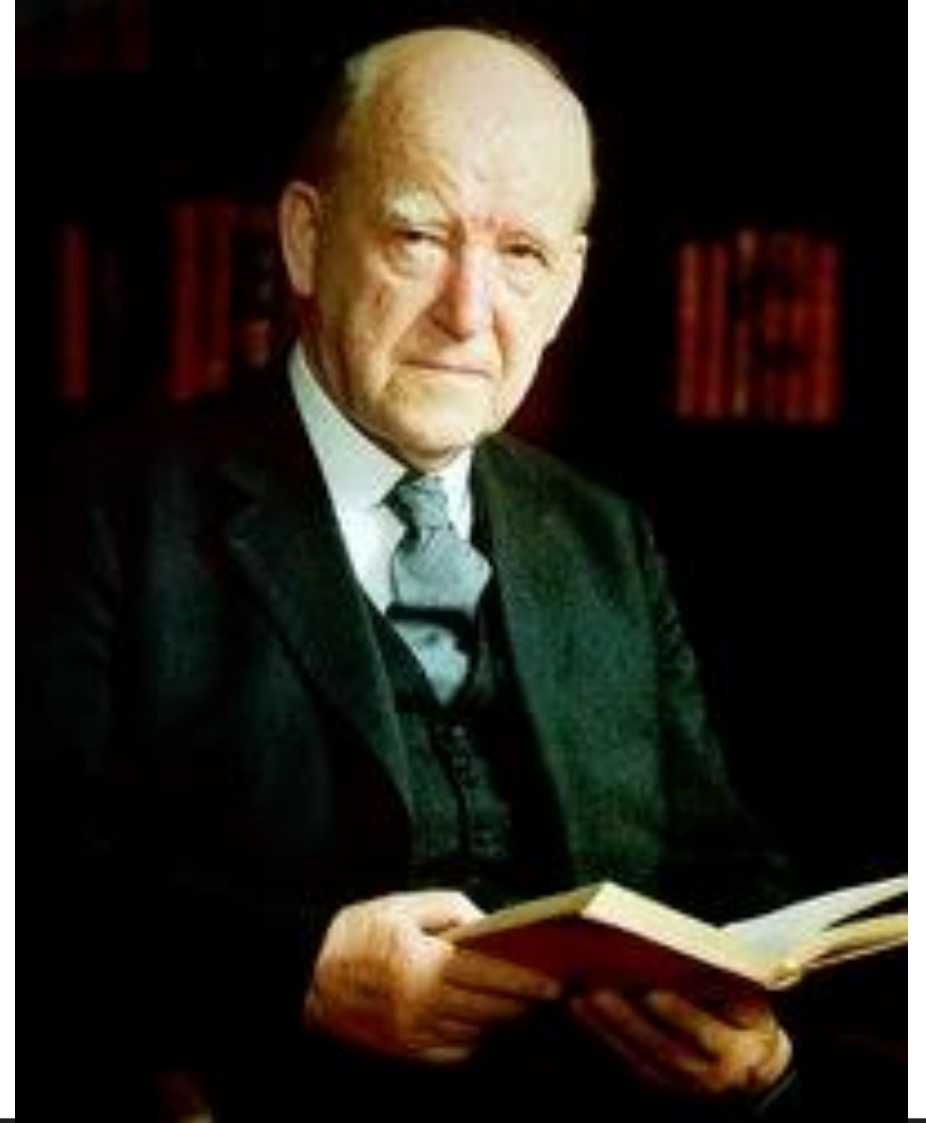
II. Re-state basic principles (1:12-13).

“We must first remind ourselves of those things of which we are absolutely certain, things which are entirely beyond doubt. Write them down and say to yourself, ‘In this terrible and perplexing situation in which I find myself, here at least is solid ground.’ When, walking on...



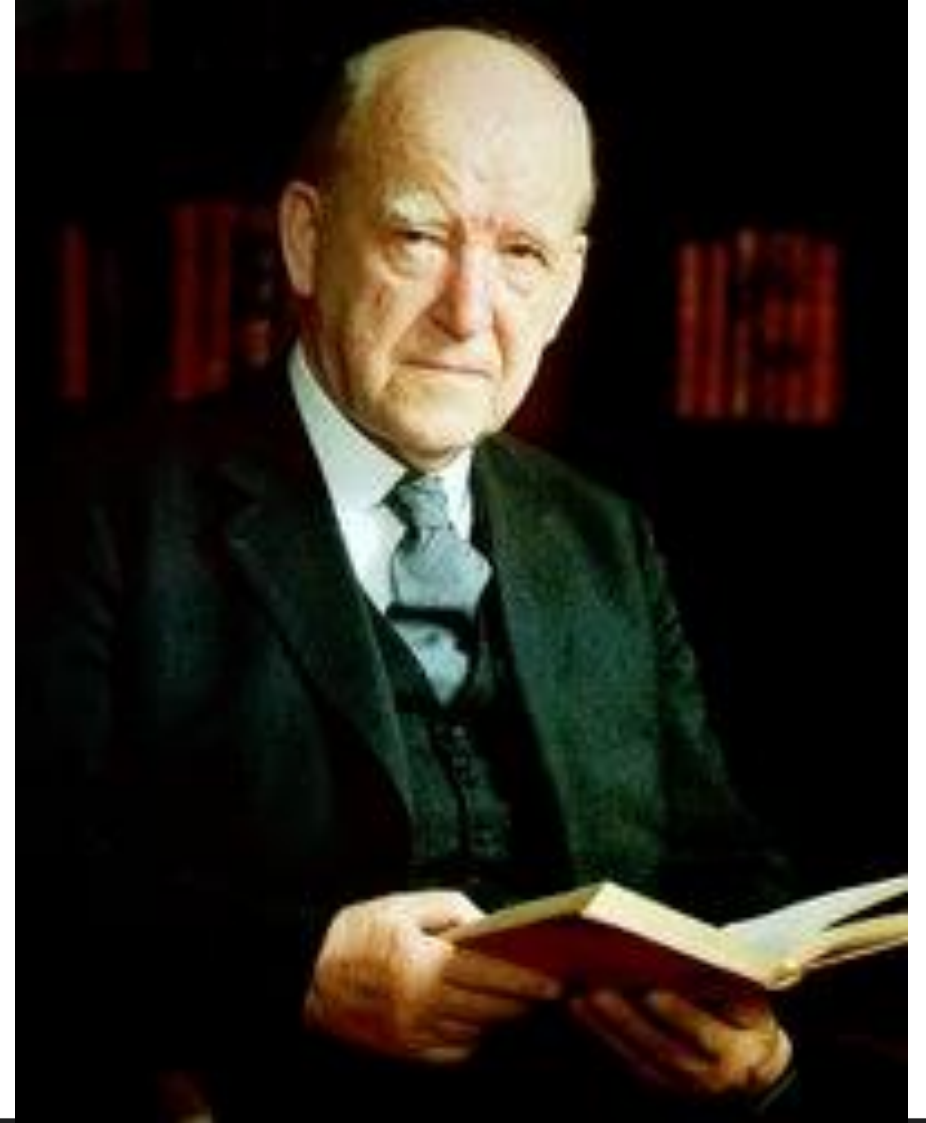
**Martyn Lloyd-Jones,**  
***Faith: Tried and Triumphant***

“...moorlands, or over a mountain range, you come to bogs, the only way to negotiate them is to find solid places upon which you can place your feet. The way to get across the morasses and the places in which you are liable to sink is to search for footholds...



**Martyn Lloyd-Jones,**  
***Faith: Tried and Triumphant***

“...So, in spiritual problems, you must return to eternal and absolute principles.”



**Martyn Lloyd-Jones ,  
*Faith: Tried and Triumphant***

I. Stop to think.

II. Re-state basic principles (1:12-13).

A. God is eternal.



“

He can mourn one moment and rejoice the next. He can hear and respond in prayer in time. Since God dwells in time, therefore, there is give-and-take between him...



**John Frame, *The Doctrine of God***

“...and human beings...  
So God is temporal after  
all, but not merely  
temporal. He really exists  
in time, but he also  
transcends time in such a  
way as to exist outside it.  
He is both inside and  
outside the temporal box—  
a box that can neither  
confine him nor keep  
him out.”



**John Frame, *The  
Doctrine of God***



## 2. Re-state the basics principles

- What biblical principles are relevant to the problem?
- Are there attributes of God that seem relevant to the problem?

"God was here before me."



I. Stop to think.

II. Re-state basic principles (1:12-13).

A. God is eternal.

B. God is holy.

*<sup>1</sup> In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" <sup>4</sup> And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the...*

## **Isaiah 6:1-5**

*...house was filled with smoke.*

*<sup>5</sup> And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost;  
for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst  
of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the  
King, the LORD of hosts!”*

**Isaiah 6:1-5**

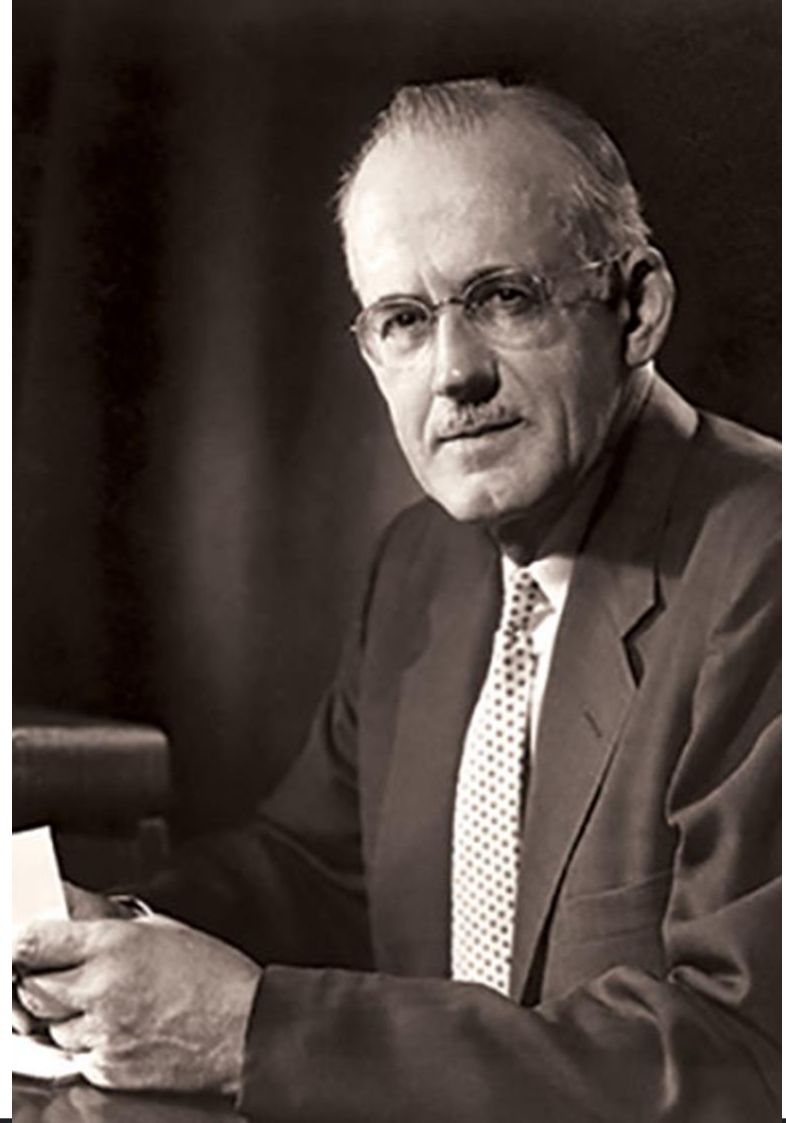
“Holy is the way God is.  
To be holy He does not  
conform to a standard.

He is that standard.

He is absolutely holy with  
an infinite,

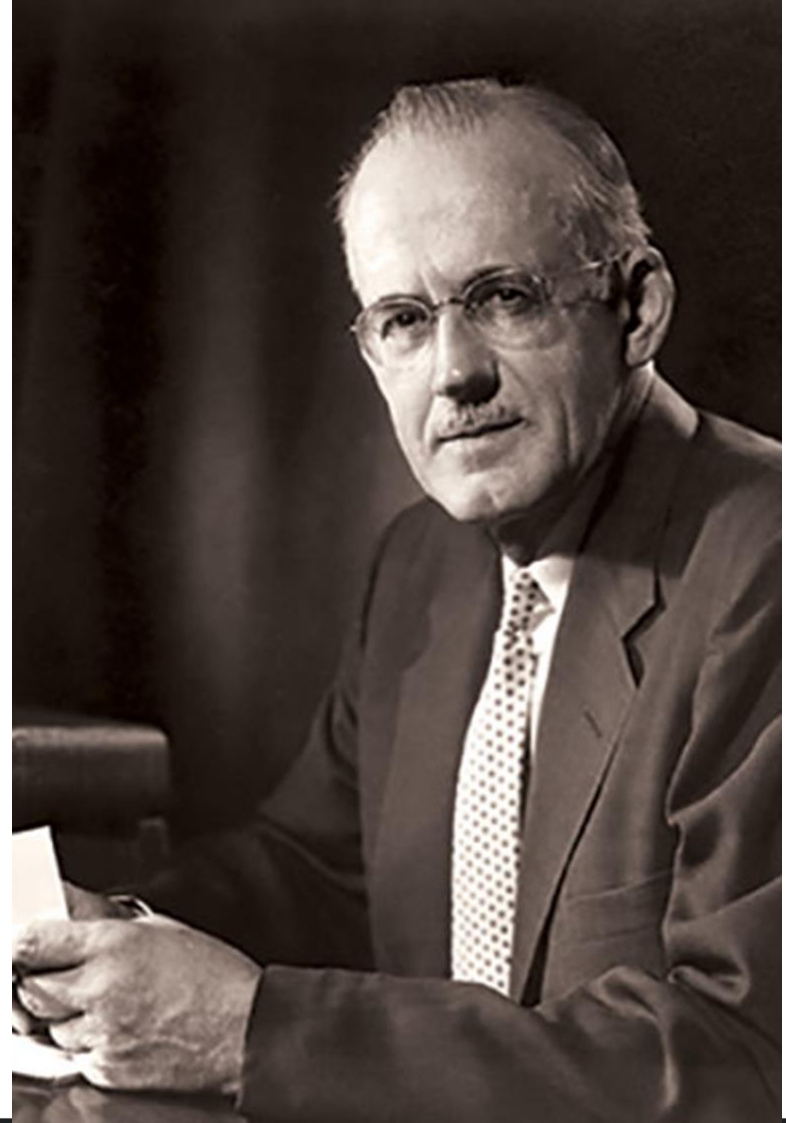
incomprehensible fullness  
of purity that is incapable  
of being other than it is.

Because He is holy,  
His attributes are holy;  
that is, whatever...



**A.W. Tozer**

“...we think of as  
belonging to God must be  
thought of as holy.”



**A.W. Tozer**

## 2. Re-state the basics principles

- What biblical principles are relevant to the problem?
- Are there attributes of God that seem relevant to the problem?



"God was here before me."

"Everything God does is right."

I. Stop to think.

II. Re-state basic principles (1:12-13).

A. God is eternal.

B. God is holy.

C. God is judge.



## 2. Re-state the basics principles

- What biblical principles are relevant to the problem?
- Are there attributes of God that seem relevant to the problem?



“God was here before me.”

“Everything God does is right.”

“God will never tolerate evil.”

*<sup>5</sup> And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. <sup>6</sup> For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” <sup>7</sup> It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup> If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. <sup>9</sup> Besides this, we have...*

**Hebrews 12:5-11**

*...had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? <sup>10</sup> For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. <sup>11</sup> For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*

**Hebrews 12:5-11**

I. Stop to think.

II. Re-state basic principles (1:12-13).

A. God is eternal.

B. God is holy.

C. God is judge.

D. God protects.

*“There is none holy like the LORD:  
for there is none besides you;  
there is no rock like our God.*

**1 Samuel 2:2**

## 2. Re-state the basics principles

- What biblical principles are relevant to the problem?
- Are there attributes of God that seem relevant to the problem?

"God was here before me."

"Everything God does is right."

"God will never tolerate evil."

"If I trust God, or am near Him, there is safety."

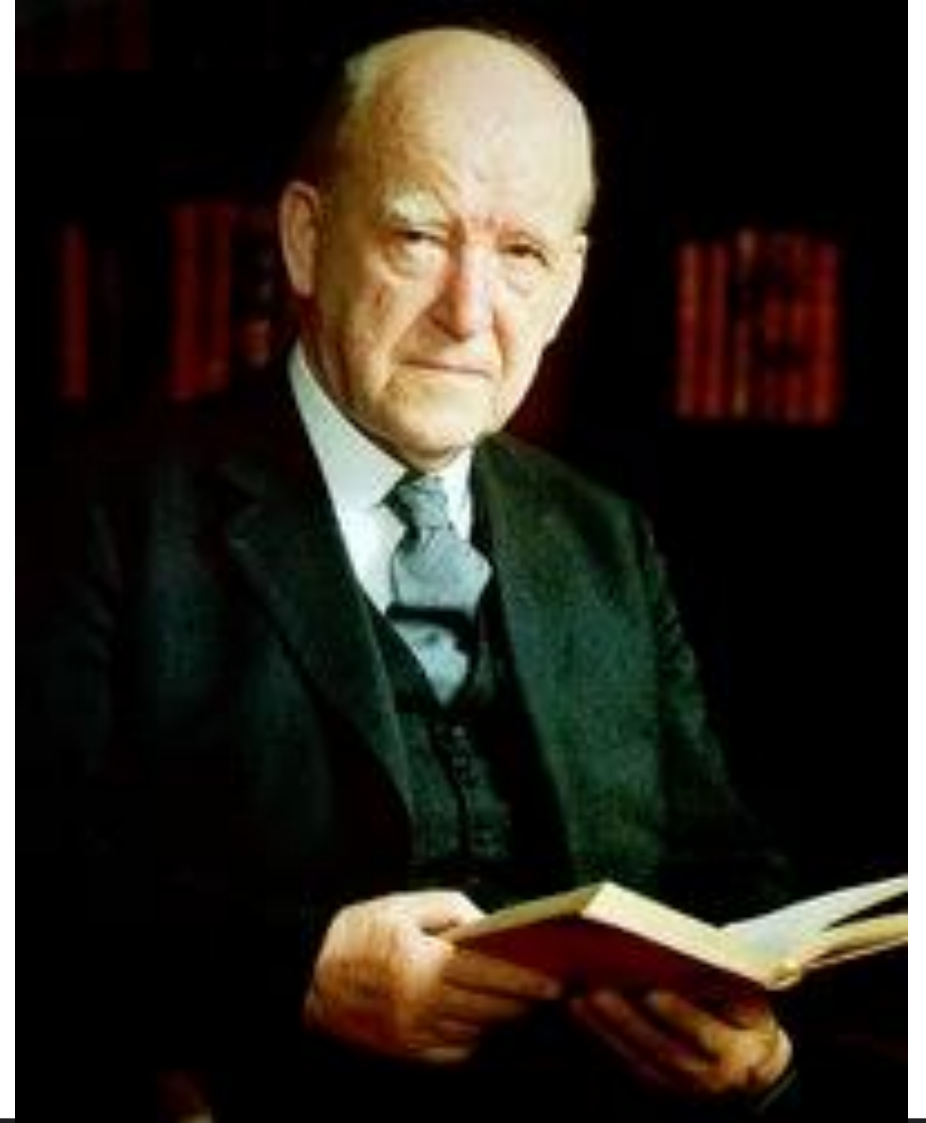


I. Stop to think.

II. Re-state basic principles (1:12-13).

III. Apply the principles to the problem (1:14-17).

“We often mistake the meaning of a phrase because we take it out of context; but when you put your problem next to its context, the context will generally interpret the text for you. The same is also true of the particular problem that is causing you concern.”



**Martyn Lloyd-Jones,**  
***Faith: Tried and Triumphant***



### 3. Apply the principles to the problem

- Take your list from #2, and ask the question, "Why do each of these principles matter?"

I don't have to get answers right away. My time-table is not God's time-table.  
Praying about my concerns is better than not praying about them

I. Stop to think.

II. Re-state basic principles (1:12-13).

III. Apply the principles to the problem (1:14-17).

IV. If still in doubt, commit the problem to God in faith (2:1).

**Psalm 52:9** - *I will thank you forever, because you have done it. I will wait for your name, for it is good, in the presence of the godly.*

**Psalm 62:1** - *For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.*

**Psalm 130:6** - *my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.*

**Isaiah 40:31** - *but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.*

**Psalm 52:9; 62:1; 130:6; Isaiah 40:31**

4. If still in doubt, commit the problem to God in faith

- Are you willing to wait on God until He answers?
- Passages to consider: Psalm 40; Philippians 4:8-9

"I need to study what it means to 'wait on God.'"

I. Stop to think.

II. Re-state basic principles (1:12-13).

III. Apply the principles to the problem (1:14-17).

IV. If still in doubt, commit the problem to God in faith (2:1).

*<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers, whatever is true,  
whatever is honorable, whatever is just,  
whatever is pure, whatever is lovely,  
whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence,  
if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these  
things. <sup>9</sup> What you have learned and received and  
heard and seen in me—practice these things,  
and the God of peace will be with you.*

**Philippians 4:8-9**