

FOUR
ETERNAL TRUTHS
ABOUT **GOD**



Gathered.
Church

THE 4G's

GOD IS GLORIOUS

GOD IS GREAT

GOD IS GOOD

GOD IS GRACIOUS

"But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firm in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News."

Colossians 1:23

When it comes to the eternal truths of God, we can't begin to put a number on them. God is too big to be put in a box or to be summed up in a list. He is kind, compassionate, loving, patience, powerful, all-knowing, everlasting, just, faithful, perfect, present, transcendent... the list goes on and on, far beyond anything written language can fully capture.

The good news of Jesus is equally boundless. There are inexhaustible implications to the truths of who he is, what he has done (and doing) and who we are because of that.

Yet, we have found that four eternal truths, in particular, have been helpful when practising gospel fluency.

**God is glorious. God is great.
God is good. God is gracious.**

These four are not "truer" than the other truths or even more important. However, as we seek to practice speaking the Gospel into the normal, everyday things of life, these four are helpful. Here are some reasons why.

- They are easy to remember (all begin with "G").
- They touch on areas we all fail to believe at times. We are all unbelievers at some level, and when we don't believe a truth we believe a lie instead.
- They are powerful tools when addressing the lies we believe, with clear implications or outcomes for when we are believing truths.

The point here is to understand the effects these truths can have in our everyday life rhythms... when we believe them.

Therefore...

God is Glorious – so we don't have to fear others or look elsewhere for approval.

God is Great – so we don't have to be in control or look to others for security.

God is Good – so we don't have to turn to anyone or anything else to be fulfilled.

God is Gracious – so we don't have to strive for worth or search for significance.

For more detailed thoughts on this, read Tim Chester's "**You Can Change**" by Crossway Books

If God is Glorious (meaning the most important, influential power in the universe), then by definition, his thoughts and opinions would have the biggest sway or effect on those who know him. How he sees us and what he says about us would heavily influence how we see ourselves. And for those adopted into his family through Jesus, we can confidently say, in full truth, that God has a very high affinity for his children. (1 John 3:1-2, 1 John 3:1, Ephesians 2:11-20, Galatians 4:5-7, Zephaniah 3:17)

When we believe lies and turn away from how God sees us, we begin to crave the approval of others. We feel like we “need” the acceptance of friends, of popular or influential people, parents and others we look up to. When this happens, we are actually controlled by them and their opinion of us. We begin to fear their rejection or disapproval and act accordingly.

The answer to this fear of what others think is to take our eyes off of others and place them back on our loving Father. His Glory eclipses every other opinion. We need a bigger, better, more truthful, glorious view of God. His approval deserves to hold the most sway in our lives, to be the “weightiest” influence in our hearts.

God is Glorious

...so we don't have to fear others or look elsewhere for approval.

The usage of “great” has changed over the years; for most people “great” just means “really good.” And God definitely is that, however, the way “great” is most commonly used in the bible, has to do with being bigger or beyond what we know, above everything else, more powerful, a strength we can't fully comprehend, let alone measure. (Psalm 8:3-4, Psalm 145:3, Psalm 95:3)

You may know (and even say you believe) that God is the final authority, powerful and ruler of all things and that nothing catches Him by surprise. Yet, how often are we filled with worry and anxiety about all sorts of things and situations we face during the week?

We can know God is Great, but live as though we don't really believe that God is in control. So we try to control people or situations, to get things back as they “should be”.

But Jesus overcame all things and is now all-powerful. We no longer need to manipulate situations or people to get our way. His way is better. He is greater than all situations and any interferences. We can trust our king and find rest in Jesus.

God is Great

...so we don't have to be in control or look to others for security.

God is Good by nature and He can't stop being what He is. He always does what is perfect, right and just. God created us to need things outside of ourselves. Joy, pleasure, laughter, happiness, fun, rest... these things God created from the goodness of His heart. We have all been designed to reflect his goodness in a way that points our hearts back to the one who is Good. He loves to give care, purpose, fulfilment, wisdom and strength to His Children. (Psalm 34:8, Nahum 1:7, 1 Peter 3:7, James 1:5)

But when we look for these things, in any place other than Jesus, we become bitter and frustrated. People and things will eventually let us down. They will fail to deeply satisfy the needs that God created in you. Instead of turning to food, entertainment, relationships, lust, exercise, experiences, more knowledge etc... to find fulfilment, we must turn to the only one who can truly satisfy our needy hearts.

God's goodness is best seen through Jesus. Jesus came to satisfy the hunger of our souls, to give us joy and to live in an intimate and loving relationship with our Maker. Jesus is the better fulfilment for every deep need.

God is Good

...so we don't have to turn to anyone or anything else to be fulfilled.

The Grace of God is so simple to receive and yet so hard to grasp. The bible tells us God is gracious, and we can know that yet not live in that belief. (Psalm 111:4, Psalm 145:13, John 1:16, Hebrews 4:16). Part of the good news of Jesus is that I don't have to prove myself to myself, to others or even to God. Yet how easily we slip into the lie that we have to do something to earn God's love and favour. We try our hardest to prove ourselves to the world, to get recognised, to be seen as valuable, significant or right. We want to show that "we are good enough and desirable".

A life aimed to impress others will inevitably become a life aimed to impress God, hoping that He will bless us or be happy with us because of how we live.

But while we were still stubborn sinners, the Father sent his Son to take our place! We were blind, completely unaware of our plight. Because of Jesus we no longer have to prove our value or try to earn his love. That is useless. Jesus paid it all, the ultimate cost for his precious bride. And now we can be included in his purposes as his special treasure.

God is Gracious

...so we don't have to strive for worth or search for significance.

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