

# FOUR G'S



*Eternal truth for everyday life*



## Introduction

# FOUR *Go's*

Our actions always flow from our beliefs. We are, at times, more aware of this connection and at other times less aware, but it is always true. What we believe affects the way we live. We do certain things because we believe certain things and deep down, we know this, even though we are not always conscious of it. We save money because we believe it will give us security; we buy that fancy car because we believe it will get people to look at us.

We know it, we live it, and yet we forget it; or at least we're not always conscious of it. We live as though we can separate out beliefs from our actions. This, of course, is wildly apparent in the way we often live when it comes to God. We "believe" that He is supreme, but we live like we are.

A.W. Tozer, in his book *The Knowledge of the Holy*, says that: "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."<sup>1</sup> In the preface to the same book, Tozer laments our loss of the concept of majesty, writing:

*The Church has surrendered her once lofty concept of God and has substituted for it one so low, so ignoble, as to be utterly unworthy of thinking, worshiping men.*

*The low view of God entertained almost universally among Christians is the cause of a hundred lesser evils everywhere among us.*<sup>2</sup>

Our view of God is inextricably linked to the way we live, the way we deal with troubles and the troubles we get into in the first place. Quite often, we find ourselves in some

sort of trouble because our view of God is simply too low. When we are not careful, we try to re-make God into our own image without even thinking about it. It is just natural for us. We like to think more of ourselves than we ought and when we do, we think less of God than we should. Picture a balance-scale. When one side goes up, the other goes down:



When our view of ourselves increases, our view of God decreases. When our view of God decreases, our lives change (never for the better). We live differently because we believe differently. Since it is natural to view ourselves more highly than we ought and God as less than we ought, it is helpful to continually remind ourselves of some of God's characteristics and what they mean for our everyday lives (Too often we find ourselves believing that belief about God is great for Sunday morning but doesn't really mean much for the rest of life). The following pages have been designed to help us see how our beliefs affect our actions.

<sup>1</sup> Tozer, A.W. *The Knowledge of the Holy*, page 1.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, vii.

**GOD IS  
GREAT**



NOTES

**God is Great (cont...)**

**Psalm 86:8-10** There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. 9All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. 10For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.

**Psalm 145:3** Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

**Psalm 115:3** Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.

**Job 23:13** But he is unchangeable, and who can turn him back? What he desires, that he does.

**More:** Find some more verses that talk about God's greatness:

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God sets up kings and kingdoms and knocks them down. "He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names" (Psalm 147:4). He has counted every grain of sand on every seashore. He knows the number of hairs on our heads (Matthew 10:30), He knows when a sparrow falls from the sky (Matthew 10:29). He spoke and out of nothing came everything. He declares the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10), in fact, He is the beginning and the end (Revelation 21:6). He redeemed the Israelites from slavery by slaying the firstborn and He has freed us from slavery to sin by bearing our punishment. He has set the captives free and brought water from rocks.

No problem is too big for Him and no detail is too small.

He Himself reminds us that with Him all things are possible (Genesis 18:14, Matthew 19:26). Nothing is too hard. No problem we are facing is beyond His concern, care or ability. He is God and He is great.

**God is great so we don't have to try to be in control.**

We want to be in control. Our culture trains us to expect and pursue control. We are bombarded with choices, from what brand of deodorant to use to what career we pursue. And, we're told that we are in control of our lives.



**GOD IS  
GLORIOUS**







**GOD IS  
GOOD**



NOTES

**God is Good (cont...)**

**Psalm 135:3** Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing to his name, for it is pleasant!

**More:** Find some more verses that talk about God's goodness:

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Many of us never experience true freedom from sin because we try to conquer it with simple brute force. We try to change our actions without ever changing our hearts. We pull the weeds but leave the roots. We have not truly tasted and seen that God is good so we believe in the goodness of momentary fleeting pleasures that moth and rust will destroy (Matthew 6:19).

In his book, *One Thing: Developing a Passion For the Beauty of God*, Sam Storms meditates on one of the stories from Greek mythology about Jason and Ulysses: During one adventure, Ulysses and his men had to pass by the infamous island of the sirens. Countless unwitting sailors had been lured to their death by their outward beauty and the irresistible song of the sirens. They would unwittingly follow the song, crash their ships on the rocks surrounding the island where the sirens would devour them.

Ulysses had been repeatedly warned about the song of the sirens so he had his crew put wax in their ears to block out the seductive song. He commanded his men neither to look to the left nor to the right, but to row for their lives. But Ulysses had other plans for himself. He commanded that he be strapped to the mast of the ship, leaving his ears unplugged. He wanted to hear the song and he instructed the men that he was not to be removed until a safe distance way. Were it not for the ropes that held him, Ulysses would have succumbed. Though his body was tied, his soul said yes to the temptation. The fact that he didn't give in was only due to the external shackles. Sadly, this is just the way many of us try to resist the appeal of sin, with our hearts chasing the passing pleasures of sin while we shackle ourselves to legalism changing only the outward behavior.

Contrast the approach of Ulysses to Jason, who had also been warned of the seductive siren song. Jason brought with him a man named Orpheus, a musician of incomparable talent. When his music filled the air it had an enchanting effect on everyone who heard it. There was not a lovelier or more beautiful sound in all the world.



**GOD IS  
GRACIOUS**









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