

Let God Be God
Your God Is Too Small
Job 34-35

Dr. Francis Schaeffer once said that the first argument of the gospel is not, as we often think, *Jesus died for our sins*. Nor is it, as we are sometimes told, *God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life*. Schaeffer said that the first argument of the gospel is *God is there*. The Scriptures begin by informing us that there is a God, that He is wise and all-powerful, and He is in control of life.

1. God is not obligated to _____ our good behavior.
2. God does not have to _____ us to know us.
3. God is infinitely more _____ than we are.

We tend to like God small. We prefer a God who is safe, domesticated, who thinks like we think, likes what we like, and whom we can manage, predict, and control. A small God is convenient, practical, and manageable. This small version of God we've created keeps us from experiencing genuine, confident, world-transforming faith. When we encounter the infinitely glorious God, it doesn't just change the way we think about our faith. It changes everything about the way we live our lives.

Reflection

Take some time to read Isaiah 6. Given the influence of our performance-based culture today, what do you think would be the response of most people would be if God ever showed himself to us the way He did Isaiah? I really think that we really think we are OK. Our cultural Christianity, which all too often is not real Christianity, has never really wrestled with the infinite holiness of God in a way that reveals the infinite worthlessness of what we would consider to be righteous. How would that affect our evangelistic efforts? How would that change the gospel we are called to proclaim? How would it limit what we think our responsibility with the gospel should be? Isaiah was confronted with his sinfulness, restored by God's righteousness, and called and equipped to take a message to the people. Take some time to pray that God might give you a similar experience and use you as you proclaim the gospel that He has entrusted to all (including you) who believe.