



The LORD passed before Moses and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness...”

(Exo 34:6)

What does the Bible mean when it tells us that our God is “slow to anger”? Have you ever been around a campfire when it first gets lit? When the Bible describes anger, it often uses “heat” or “kindling a fire” to help us understand.



- Potiphar’s “anger was kindled” when his wife falsely accused Joseph (Gen 39:19)
- “Eliab’s anger was kindled” when his little brother David showed up on the battlefield (1 Sam 17:28)
- Rebekah encouraged her youngest son Jacob to flee to his uncle “and stay with him a while, until your brother’s fury turns away” (Gen 27:44)

Heat can be a very good thing. There’s nothing wrong with kindling a fire in the right place, and this is why Proverbs 14:29, 15:18, and 16:32 describe the wisdom behind being “slow to anger.”

In fact, “slow to anger” is exactly what **WE** are called to be in James 1:19:

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger...

...and notice the reason provided:

...for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. (James 1:20)

Does God’s anger “burn” at times? Yes it does, but it burns because he cares about what is right, how people are treated, and the choices we make. God **LOVES** the world and he has been **SO** patient with all of us for thousands and thousands of years. As Jesus told us, “For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust” (Matt 5:45).

What is God like? God is slow to anger.

# FOUNDATION STONES

Exodus 34:6 would be a really good verse to **memorize** this month.

What is God like?



The LORD passed before Moses and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, **slow to anger**, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness...”

Another way of thinking about being “**slow to anger**” is being very **patient**. When you think of being **patient**, what do you think of?

Is it always **easy** to be **patient**? If not, how can we learn to **BE** more **patient**?

Can you think of any times in the Bible that God was really, **REALLY** patient with someone?

The apostle Paul learned just how **PATIENT** God was with him when he didn’t believe that Jesus was really the Son of God. Listen to what he wrote in 1 Timothy 1:16: “But I received **mercy** for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect **patience** as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.”

God is **MERCIFUL, GRACIOUS, SLOW** to **ANGER**, and he wants us to grow up to be like him!

