

How Great is Our God?

God is Patient

Definition: *God's goodness in withholding punishment to those that sin despite their continual disobedience and disregard to His warnings.*

How Do We Know?

1. God Is Patient in His Character

- Ex 34:6 – *God is slow to anger - ⁶ The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,*
- Ps 86:15 - *But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.*
- Rom 15:5 – ⁵ *May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus*

2. God Displays His Patience Toward Sinners

- Jonah 4:2 - *for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.*
- Romans 2:4 - ⁴ *Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?*
- I Pet 3:20 - *because^[a] they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.*
- I Tim 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.*
- II Pet 3:9 - ⁹ *The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you,^[a] not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

How Do We Respond?

3. Believers Should Imitate God's Patience

- James 1:19-20 - ¹⁹ *Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*
- I Pet 2:20 – *For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.*
- Col 3:12 - *Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience*
- Eph 5:2 – *And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*
- Gal 5:22 – ²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*

Application Questions:

Why do we struggle with being impatient?

How is God's patience "perfect patience?" (Ex. 34:6)

Can you think of some examples in Scripture of God demonstrating patience?

What does cultivating patience have to do with a believer's relationship to God? (Gal 5:22)

How should cultivating patience influence how believers view and interact with the lost? (II Pet 3:9)

How should cultivating patience influence how believers relate with other believers that are irritating? (Col 3:12)

How should cultivating patience influence how a believer views trial? (James 1:19)