

October 4, 2026 | **God, Do You Ever Change Your Mind?** | Pastor Eddie Eddy

Exodus 32:1-14 New International Version 32 When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods[a] who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."

² Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me." ³ So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. ⁴ He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."

⁵ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the Lord." ⁶ So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

⁷ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. ⁸ They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.'

⁹ "I have seen these people," the Lord said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people. ¹⁰ Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation."

¹¹ But Moses sought the favor of the Lord his God. "Lord," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.'" ¹⁴ Then the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

L: This is the word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God:

God, Do You Ever Change Your Mind?

As a pastor goes through his email one day he sees that there is a message from a young girl in his congregation, this is what it says:

Dear Pastor,

Hello. I hope you are having a good week. Your message Sunday was really good. My daddy actually stayed awake the whole time! But that's not why I'm writing. I have a question for you. My best friend Lexi is a real nice person, but one thing drives me crazy about her. She can never make up her mind about anything. What clothes she is going to wear, what food she is going to eat, what friends she will spend time with, what sports she is going to play...she won't make up her mind on anything and she changes her mind almost every day. It's really starting to get on my nerves. After your sermon on Sunday, it made me stop and think....does God do that? Does God change his mind? Because if he does, I don't know if He and I are going to get along for thousands of years in heaven. Please let me know what you think. I'm starting to worry.

Sincerely, Jessica

This young lady asks a pretty important question. Does God change his mind? You might think...that to her pastor, this is probably just a cute little request and that the pastor would probably overlook it completely, and move on to more important things like the budget or getting his charge conference forms done or preparing for a church meal.

But the truth is, this little girl raises an enormous theological topic. I've asked questions like this myself...many times. Does God change his mind or maybe an even better question is this: can we change Gods mind?

SP

These questions should be extremely important to us. Is God growing? Is God maturing? Are the events in this world making him veer from his original direction? Could God be evolving into a better, more qualified God?

Is he a little bit more forgiving today than he was 2000 or 6000 years ago? Is God changing over time? And if God is changing... are we the reason that God changes His mind about certain things. How about this...Does the Bible teach this? Does the Bible support a God that is in process? Well...Let's find out.

Let me re-read some of our passage for today: Exodus 32:7-14 New Living Translation

7 The Lord told Moses, "Quick! Go down the mountain! Your people whom you brought from the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. 8 How quickly they have turned away from the way I commanded them to live! They have melted down gold and made a calf, and they have bowed down and sacrificed to it. They are saying, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.'"

9 Then the Lord said, "I have seen how stubborn and rebellious these people are. 10 Now leave me alone so my fierce anger can blaze against them, and I will destroy them. Then I will make you, Moses, into a great nation."

11 But Moses tried to pacify the Lord his God. "O Lord!" he said. "Why are you so angry with your own people whom you brought from the land of Egypt with such great power and such a strong hand? 12 Why let the Egyptians say, 'Their God rescued them with the evil intention of slaughtering them in the mountains and wiping them from the face of the earth'? Turn away from your fierce anger. Change your mind about this terrible disaster you have threatened against your people! 13 Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. You bound yourself with an oath to them, saying, 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars of heaven. And I will give them all of this land that I have promised to your descendants, and they will possess it forever.'"

14 So the Lord changed his mind about the terrible disaster he had threatened to bring on his people.

PAUSE

So, there it is. Problem solved. All the pastor has to do is open his laptop, and bang out a quick email. Dear Jessica, read Exodus 32. God does change his mind. Thanks for asking and good luck with Lexi, your pastor.

It's that simple, right? Not so fast.

If we bounce around in the bible a little bit, we can find a bunch of verses that say the opposite. Here's 2

In Numbers 23:19 it says:

God is not a man, that he should lie,
nor a son of man, that he should change his mind.
Does he speak and then not act?
Does he promise and not fulfill?

Or how about 1 Samuel 15:29:

He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a man, that he should change his mind."

Short Pause

Kinda confusing isn't it? The end of our passage today shows God repenting, or changing his mind. A couple of books later, the Bible says that God is not a man, that he should change his mind. He does not speak and not act. He does not promise and not fulfill. **He can't be swayed.**

Dilemmas like this are why the skeptics say, "The Bible contradicts itself. You can't trust in a book that disagrees with itself. Throw it in the trash and live like you want. Make up your own rules." I say...Hold on skeptics.

The Bible does not contradict itself and **God does not change his mind**. Let me show you...Three Truths about the Unchanging Nature of God

PAUSE

First, God's personality is unchanging.

The God of the Bible is not just some mysterious fog that floats over the earth. He is a personal God and He has a personality, certain characteristics that never change: His love, His mercy, His judgment, His compassion. These things do not change.

We can see that in Hebrews 1:10-12

"In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed.

But you remain the same...

God the Father remains the same. He is the same God today that He was when He created the world.

2. God's promises are unchanging.

I tell Jeanie all the time: I'm going to take out the trash. And then I forget to do it. Somebody helps me out and I say to myself: I have to write them a thank you note and then I don't follow through. Human beings do that. We say we're going to do something and then...whether it be intentionally or unintentionally...we fail to deliver.

But this I know: God never fails to deliver. He doesn't forget. He doesn't need Alexa or Siri to give him a reminder. I don't believe he ever changes his mind.

SHORT PAUSE

Isaiah 46:10 says that God knows the end from the beginning.

Psalms 33:10-11:

10 The LORD foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.

11 But the plans of the LORD **stand firm forever**, the purposes of his heart through all generations.

We have hymns that we sing like "Standing on the Promises of God" that we will sing forever because we know that God always keeps his promises. God's plans stand firm.

Here's what I believe about the Word of God. The Word of God will stand forever (Is. 40:8). You don't have to worry about God changing his mind about how the world is going to end. He's not going to release a second edition of the book of Revelation that removes the pearly gates of heaven or the streets of gold. And he's not bluffing about hell and an eternity of existing with the consequences of not choosing the salvation that God's offers. The plans of the Lord **stand firm forever**.

PAUSE

But let's go back to our Exodus passage. If God does not change his mind, if he never has to resort to plan B, then what is going on at the base of Mt. Sinai? It sure looks to me like he had plans to destroy his own people. So, did the prayer of Moses calm God down and changed God's mind. Did Moses save God from making a hasty decision?

I don't believe so. In fact, Moses' prayer in this passage upholds the unchanging nature of God. Moses is appealing to God's unchanging character and plans. Look at v.11....Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?

Moses seeks the favor of God because he knows that his God...is a God of mercy and compassion. He is calling out to the God of love, saying, "Aren't you going to be compassionate? Aren't you going to allow mercy to triumph over judgment? That's the kind of God you are. You are not a God dominated by anger and rage. You are a God that loves to hand out grace." He is appealing to God's unchanging nature.

That is the personality of the God we serve and the God that Moses knew. And so, what does he do? When his people are being knuckleheads and giving in to sin, Moses calls upon the God of grace...He appeals to God's unchanging nature.

If God's nature is unchanging...then **we** have to believe that...so are God's promises.

Moses appeals to those promises in v.13....

He says, "Lord, you have never broken a promise. Why would you start now? You are not a promise breaking God. You are a promise keeping God."

This is where it gets tough, but this is where the third truth comes into play. We've discussed the facts that God's personality is unchanging and that God's promises are unchanging. Now we'll see that God is sticking to his plan and how that plan is unfolding.

When I study the scriptures or have a situation that I need guidance with I look to the bible with two basic questions:

First: What does God say?

And second: Is God faithful to his word?

I think if we apply these questions to this passage, they hold true. In this case...God says he is going to let his wrath burn hot against Moses' people. Did you catch it in the passage how quickly God basically disowns the idolaters? He tells Moses "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them." God is once again disrespected, and heartbroken.

So, let's test our two questions: What did God say and is he faithful to his word:

First of all, what does God say? God makes it very clear to Moses that there is going to be a consequence. He will bring a wrath upon the people for the lack of trust that they have shown. God's plan is to destroy them all.

And our second question, is God faithful to his word? Sure he is. Although Moses may have appealed to the unchanging character and nature of God when he prayed for compassion for his people, God still carried out his plan to keep that generation out of the Promised Land. He imposed his wrath by leading them around the mountain for 40 years until everyone who was over the age of 20 had died. It was only then that he brought them to the bank of the Jordan River, across from the land he promised to them.

Throughout history, Old Testament and new, God has been consistent in his word and his actions. He hasn't changed his mind or waived in his treatment for us, He is just, He is fixed, He is true. He has proved over and over that we can trust him completely. And for this I say, "thank you God!" Just think how hard it would be to serve a God who is unpredictable? Who changes the rules as he goes? How scary would it be to serve a god that can get better or worse with time? If that was the God we served...where would we find any kind of solid footing?

PAUSE

If I were young Jessica's pastor, I think my response to her would go like this:

Dear Jessica, Thank you for taking the time to ask me your question. I too have friends like Lexi and have asked the same thing. I am happy to tell you that you and God will be great friends in heaven for all those years. You can count on him to always know what is right and never change his mind.

You don't have to worry,

Let me close with the words of W.A.Tozer:

What peace it brings to the Christian's heart to realize that our Heavenly Father never differs from Himself. In coming to Him at any time we need not wonder whether we shall find Him in a receptive mood. He is always receptive to misery and need, as well as to love and faith. He does not keep office hours nor set aside periods when He will see no one. Neither does He change His mind about anything. Today, this moment, He feels toward His creatures, toward babies, toward the sick, the fallen, the sinful, exactly as He did when He sent His only-begotten Son into the world...to die for mankind. (A.W. Tozer, The Knowledge of the Holy)

To God be the glory, Amen.

Invitation to the offering:

One of the things we have talked about today is that God is faithful. His character does not change, His promises do not change, and we can trust Him completely. And when we begin to understand just how faithful God has been to us, generosity becomes one of the ways we respond.

We don't give because God needs something from us. We give because God has already given so much to us. We give because we trust the same God who provided yesterday to provide tomorrow. So as we receive our offering today, let this be more than putting something in a plate. Let it be an act of trust. Let it be our way of saying, "God, You have been faithful to me, and I trust You with what You have placed in my hands."

Closing Prayer:

Faithful and unchanging God, we thank You that we never have to wonder who You will be when we come to You. You are the same God of mercy, compassion, justice, and grace today that You have always been. When our lives are uncertain, You remain our solid ground. When we wander, You continue to call us home. When we fail, Your grace continues to invite us to begin again.

Lord, as we leave this place, help us to trust Your promises even when we cannot see what You are doing. When life doesn't make sense, remind us to ask the questions: "What has God said?" and "Is God faithful to His Word?" Then give us the courage to live like we believe the answer.

We also dedicate the gifts that have been given today. Take these offerings and use them through the ministry of Your church to share the Gospel, care for those in need, strengthen Your people, and reach those who do not yet know the hope we have found in Jesus Christ. And along with these gifts, we dedicate ourselves again to You. Use our hands, our voices, our time, our resources, and our lives for Your Kingdom.

Send us from this place standing firmly on Your promises, trusting Your grace, and knowing that whatever this week may bring, You will still be God and You will still be faithful. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.