

God Is Not a Gentleman

by — Steve Martin, the Grace Dude

You've probably heard it in a sermon, podcast or some well-meaning devotional:

"God is a gentleman."

They say it like its gospel.

"He won't force Himself on you."

"He'll wait until you're ready."

"He'll stand politely outside your heart's door and knock, knock, knock ..."

It sounds sweet. Polished. Even respectful. But it's a lie.

God is not a gentleman. He's not waiting on your permission slip to do what He's already purposed. He's not pacing nervously outside your decision-making, hoping you'll invite Him in. He's not wringing His hands while you march off a cliff.

Because if that were true – if He *saw* you heading straight into death, sin, destruction or hell (whatever you think that is) – and *just let you go* because He's "too polite" to intervene?

That's not a gentleman. That's a sociopath. But here's the truth:

God IS love.

And love doesn't wait for you to figure it out. Love intervenes. Love disrupts. Love crashes through your delusions with a bigger plan.

And God's plan? It's not reactive. It's not based on your willingness, readiness or free-will-yielding cooperation. It's already written. He declared the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10). You're not the one driving this thing. He is.

You weren't just rescued in spite of your screw-ups. Your screw-ups were part of the setup.

Yes, even the addictions. Even the rebellion.

Even the numb seasons, the religious rabbit holes, the wandering, the sin.

God didn't look away. He designed it all. *Not to shame you – but to shape you.*

To hollow you out so He could fill you.

To wreck your self-effort so He could rebuild you on grace.

That's not the move of a gentleman. That's the move of a sovereign Creator Who loves you too much to let you ruin yourself.

He's not waiting for you to "be ready." He's making you ready.

And He's doing it right now. So, no; God's not a gentleman.

He's a relentless Father with a purpose. A fire that purifies.

A Potter Who crushes and re-forms.

A Lover who doesn't ask for your permission – because He already owns your heart.

You didn't choose Him.

He chose you.

And He's not done yet.