

Staying the Same

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Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

John 8:58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

- I. We could not have faith in God if He were not unchanging.
 - A. If He loved the righteous today and loved the wicked tomorrow.
 - B. If He changed the rules from time to time about what is right and what is wrong.
 - C. If He helped you today, but forsook you tomorrow.
 - D. If He formed his plans yesterday and abandoned them today.
 - E. If his character were fickle, vacillating, or changing we would never know what to expect and therefore, could not trust or have confidence in Him.
 - F. If He sometimes forgot us, or what He had told us, we could not rest in faith in Him.
 - G. If we thought He was ever, even one time, forgetful, unreliable, or fickle we would always be making plans to take care of things ourselves, in case He didn't come through.
 - H. Faithfulness includes the idea of unchangeableness.
- II. Since God is faithful, and we are being conformed to his image, then it stands to reason that we should be learning to be faithful in all things.
 - A. Staying the same is always a most desirable trait in a person.

Proverbs 24:21 My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: *and meddle not with them that are given to change:*

- B. It puts others around him at ease because they know what to expect from him.
 - C. It lets others have confidence in him because he is predictable, being always the same.
 - D. It allows others to deal with him in business and the affairs of life with ease and confidence because he is stable and predictable.
- III. A person given to change is a person that is miserable himself, and makes everyone around him miserable.

Proverbs 25:19 Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble *is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.*

- A. Faithful means constant, steady, unchanging, not fickle.
 - 1. Not moody
 - 2. They mean what they say, and say what they mean – they keep their word at all costs, without changing.
 - 3. Their ideas of right and wrong are steady and stable, and consistent, and don't change – they are their guide in life.

- B. If he is always vacillating and flip-flopping, no one knows what to expect, or how to please him.
- C. It is impossible to be at ease around him.
- D. It is very hard to make any kind of deal with him, or work with him in any way.
- E. It is impossible to count on him for anything.
- F. The universe works in perfect order because things remain the same; machines run like they are supposed to until something is changed, or moved.
- G. Everything depends upon order and order depends upon faithfulness and unchangeableness.

IV. Because God is always the same we have the strongest reason and obligation to serve Him and persevere faithfully.

- A. We know exactly what He expects of us and exactly how He will react to our righteousness, or to our unrighteousness.
- B. We know that it is only his unchanging mercy that allows us to keep breathing.

Malachi 3:6 For I *am* the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

- C. This is the main attribute of God that our faith is founded upon.
 1. And it is the main attribute of our character that gives us credibility with others in our testimony for God, as well as all other matters of life.
 2. If this truth weren't established well in the Word of God our faith would be weak at very best.
 3. Because He always keeps his Word we can have full confidence in Him.
- D. If we are going to be like Him and maintain a good testimony as his child in this changing world, we must learn to be faithful in all things, down to the details of life.

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