

**Subject: *The Unchanging God***

**Scripture: *James 1:17-18***

The world is always changing. People are always changing. Our circumstances are constantly changing. The Bible reveals the God who never changes. The fact that God never changes is very comforting and very convicting. Notice what God says in James 1:17-18. Listen to what God says in other scriptures:

**Malachi 3:6** *For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*  
**Psalms 102:25-27** <sup>25</sup> *Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands. <sup>26</sup> They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed: <sup>27</sup> But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end.*

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

### **1. God is unchanging in His ways**

God's character (nature, attributes) is unchanging. If we were to go through the attributes of God we would find that His nature is just the opposite of our nature. He is eternal; we are bound by time. He is self-existent; we are created. He is self-sufficient; we are dependent. He is uncreated spirit; we are physical creatures. He is omnipresent; we are limited to one place. He is omniscient; we know very little. He is omnipotent; we are weak. He is perfectly holy; we are sinful. He is always true and faithful; we are fickle and unfaithful. He is unchanging; we are always changing.

Everything about God has always been true, is true, and always will be true. His power is unchanging; His wisdom is unchanging; His holiness is unchanging; His righteousness, His mercy, His love, His faithfulness, His wrath are all unchanging.

Charles Spurgeon said: "The delight which the mariner feels, when, after having been tossed about for many a day, he steps again upon the solid shore, is the satisfaction of a Christian when, amidst all the changes of this troublous life, he rests the foot of his faith upon this truth—I am the Lord, I change not."

Stephen Charnock said: "Immutability is the strongest prop for faith. It is not a single perfection, but the glory of all attributes that belong to God's nature."

When Moses asked God what to say when he told the people who sent him to lead them out of Egypt, God said, "Tell them I AM THAT I AM has sent you." The personal name for God is "I AM" (Yahweh, Jehovah). It reveals the nature of God as eternal, self-existing, self-sufficient, and unchanging. Then God told Moses that He was the same God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He was the same God. He had not changed.

**Exodus 3:15** *And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.*

### **2. God is unchanging in His words**

**Psalms 119:89** For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

**Numbers 23:19** God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

God cannot lie. He is not fickle. He says what He means and means what He says. He is unchanging in His promises and His warnings.

**Joshua 23:14** And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof.

### **3. God is unchanging in His will**

**Acts 15:18** Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.

**Isaiah 14:24** The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand.

**Isaiah 46:9-10** <sup>9</sup> Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, <sup>10</sup> Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.

**Daniel 4:35** And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

He does what He wants, as He wants, when He wants, and with whom He wants. He cannot be stopped. His will was done in creation. He will is done in salvation.

**James 1:18** Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

**John 1:11-13** <sup>11</sup> He came unto his own, and his own received him not. <sup>12</sup> But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: <sup>13</sup> Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

**John 6:37-44**

**Romans 8:28-30**

**Romans 9:15-24**

**Ephesians 1:3-12**

God did not change His will in creation. And He does not change in His will in salvation. He will not change in His will consummation and judgment. He will ultimately judge all sin and punish all the unsaved. He will ultimately glorify all His people and dwell with them in heaven forever.

The Bible teaches that God is unchanging and it teaches that we can and do change. That is the good news of the Gospel. God can change us by His grace. You may wish that God would change your circumstances, but what you really need is for Him to change you.