

God Never Changes

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study
Various Scripture

Our world constantly changes. We need only watch the evening news for a moment to see that it is characterized by constant flux. This starkly contrasts the biblical doctrine of immutability, or God's unchanging nature.

The term "*immutability*" refers to God's quality of not changing. Scripture affirms, "*I the LORD do not change*" (**Malachi 3:6**) and describes God as One "*with whom there is no变ability nor shadow of turning*" (**James 1:17**). Unlike our volatile economies and shifting political landscapes, or even ourselves, God remains perpetually consistent in His nature, perfections, purposes, promises, and gifts.

Immutability offers profound comfort. We rest assured that God is "*utterly reliable*" and "*absolutely perfect*." He stands outside time's constraints—never improving or deteriorating, never wavering in His commitments.

I. God is Never-Changing

- A. God is unchanging in His eternal being, **1 Samuel 15:29 (NASB95)** "*Also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind.*"
 - 1. The "*Glory of Israel*" is a title for God. He alone is the glory of His people.
 - 2. God is forever the same in His mind, character, and His word.
 - a) God never alters His plan
 - b) God's attributes never change
 - c) God's divine perfection is unalterable.
- B. The Psalmist declares God's immutability in **Psalm 102:26–27**: "*They [earth and the heavens] will perish, but you will remain; they [earth and the heavens] will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, 27 but you are the same, and your years have no end.*"
 - 1. The earth and the heavens will be purified by fire (2 Peter 3:7)
 - 2. God has no beginning and no end (Psalm 102:27)
- C. God's love for His people never changes (**Psalm 103:17**, *But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children*) God is fixed in His devotion (**Malachi 3:6**, "*For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.*")
- D. In the New Testament, God's immutability is carried forward.
 - 1. **Hebrews 1:10–12**, *And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; 11 they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, 12 like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end."* (Quoting Psalm 102:26-27)
 - 2. **Hebrews 13:8**, *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*
 - 3. **James 1:17**, *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*

II. God is Ever Faithful to His Word

- A. God is always faithful to His Word. **Numbers 23:19**, *God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?* [The answer to the two rhetorical questions is an emphatic, "No!"]
- B. God's Word is settled (**Psalm 119:89**, *Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.*)
 - 1. Jesus testimony, **Matthew 5:18**, *For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.*
 - 2. **Luke 16:17**, *But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void.*

III. God is the Rock

- A. Rock (*tsur*) – is not a small pebble but a mountain or boulder (**Exodus 17:6**, *Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.*) *And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.*
- B. **Deuteronomy 32:4**, *"The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and*

without iniquity, just and upright is he.

- C. **Deuteronomy 32:18**, *You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you, and you forgot the God who gave you birth.*
- D. **Deuteronomy 32:31**, *For their rock is not as our Rock; our enemies are by themselves.*
- E. **1 Corinthians 10:4**, *And all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. (Isaiah 28:16, “a stone,” “a tested stone,” “a precious cornerstone.”*

IV. God's Plan is Fixed

- A. **Psalm 33:10–11**, *The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. 11 The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.*
- B. Solomon (**Proverbs 19:21**, *Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.*
- C. Isaiah affirmed God's settled plan (**Isaiah 14:26–27**, *This is the purpose that is purposed concerning the whole earth, and this is the hand that is stretched out over all the nations. 27 For the Lord of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back?*

V. God is Self-Controlled

- A. God has emotions. We see in Scripture that God has...
 - 1. **Grief - Genesis 6:6**, *And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.*
 - 2. **Anger - Numbers 11:1**, *And the people complained in the hearing of the Lord about their misfortunes, and when the Lord heard it, his anger was kindled...*
 - 3. **Rejoices - Isaiah 62:5**, *For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.*
 - 4. **Compassion - Romans 9:15**, *For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”*
- B. Yet, God is not governed by anything outside of Himself. He remains self-controlled. He is not subject to the actions of His creatures. He is the unmoved Mover.

VI. The Light for our Path

- A. A Prayer of Lament (**Psalm 102:1-11**)
- B. A Prayer of Trust (**Psalm 102:12-22**)
- C. A Prayer of Promise (**Psalm 102:23-28**)
 - 1. Promise amid Lament and Sorrow (**Psalm 102:23**)
 - 2. The cry to God of the fleeting life of this believer and the eternity of God (**Psalm 102:24**)
 - 3. The eternity of God pictured (Psalm 105:25-27)
 - a) The created order will perish (25-26)
 - b) But God will remain (27)
- D. The Prayer of Security
 - 1. Our security rests in His unchanging grace and steadfast love