

“God’s Immutability”

*“I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.”
Malachi 3:6*

“We should dwell much in meditation on this perfection of God. Our language should be: ‘Well, however changeable we are, God is unchangeable. He is forever the same: unchangeable in greatness, goodness, wisdom, power, holiness, faithfulness, fullness, and sufficiency. He is in every way an unchangeable God. What He was, He is; what He is, He will be forever.’ Thus, we should sit down and contemplate this attribute until we find our hearts affected and overawed by it” (Edward Pearse).

1. God’s _____ : “I am the LORD”

See Ex. 3:14–15.

God is beyond the created universe, including time and space. He knows nothing of past, present, or future, but dwells in one indivisible point of eternity. Because God has no past or future, He doesn’t experience successive states of being; rather, He “encloses all being within himself.” God doesn’t change, because change requires a cause that makes something to be; but there is no cause prior to God. He alone is uncaused. He alone is the uncaused cause of all things.

2. God’s _____ : “I do not change”

Because God is an unchangeable being, He’s incapable of the least alteration. He’s the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8). He is eternally what He was and what He will be. He is as He was before the universe was made and as He will be after the universe is remade. He’s “the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change” (Jas. 1:17). The “lights” cast shadows as they move in their orbit, but God isn’t like that. There are no processes active within God’s nature that can cause Him to change; moreover, there are no forces outside of God’s nature that can cause Him to change.

J. I. Packer...

- *God’s _____ doesn’t change.* “God exists forever; and He is always the same. He does not grow older. His life does not wax or wane. He does not gain new powers, nor lose those He once had. He does not mature or develop. He does not get stronger, or weaker, or wiser, as time goes by.”

- *God's _____ doesn't change.* "In the course of a human life, tastes and outlook and temper may change radically ... But nothing of this sort happens to the Creator. He never becomes less truthful, or merciful, or just, or good, than He used to be. The character of God is today, and always will be, exactly what it was."
- *God's _____ doesn't change.* "The words of men are unstable things. But not so the words of God. They stand forever, as abidingly valid expressions of His mind and thought. No circumstances prompt Him to recall them; no changes in His own thinking require Him to amend them."
- *God's _____ doesn't change.* "What He does in time, He planned from eternity. And all that He planned in eternity He carries out in time. And all that He has in His word committed Himself to do will infallibly be done."

3. **God's _____: "Therefore, you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob"**

See Mal. 3:7.

In Gen. 3:15, the LORD God (*Yahweh Elohim*) promises that a Saviour will come to save His people from the power of Satan. Every intent of the thoughts of man's heart is only evil continually from his youth (Gen. 6:5; 8:21). Sin affects us inherently, totally, and continually. God, therefore, is at liberty to do whatever He wants with us. Yet He intends to keep His promise, despite our sin and rebellion. He has covenanted to save His people. "Jehovah is salvation" (Matt. 1:21).

"God lets forth influences upon our souls, and we, by the assistance of His Spirit, make returns to Him" (John Flavel).

God's Influences ...

Because God is unchangeable, He's _____ – totally reliable and dependable.

See 1 Cor. 10:13; 2 Thess. 3:3; 2 Tim. 2:13; Heb. 10:23; 1 Jn. 1:9.

Christ is faithful in each of His offices. See Rev. 1:5; Heb. 2:17; Rev. 19:11.

Our Returns ...

When we struggle with _____, _____, _____,
_____, God hasn't changed.

*“You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.
Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD God is an everlasting rock.”
Isiah. 26:3–4*