

The Immutability of God

"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed" (Malachi 3:6)

To mutate means to undergo a permanent genetic change. We hear this and have observed this in the scientific world. A plant or animal species can mutate genetically to better survive and thrive in its environment. Creatures do this at times but not the Creator. Yes, of course, God can do all things, but one thing He does not do and has forever firmly fixed never to do is change. He is immutable in His character. For as the writer of Hebrews tells us: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (13:8).

It is hard for us as humans to grasp this completely because we are always going through changes. Our thoughts, emotions, and lives in general seem to go up and down with change on a daily. Our dreams change through time. Our desires take up an alternate form. For instance, have you ever met someone who hated coffee or salad in their teens but now, in their thirties, loves espresso and spinach leaves? We change, even in appetite and delight, don't we? God, however, never changes His mind or action (Numbers 23:19). He is a Steady and Firm Foundation. He is the Rock of Ages. The Mighty Fortress that never falls. He is the Shelter in a windy world that does not collapse. He is the Anchor of steadiness and stability that we need as His people in this ever-changing culture that we are surrounded with. And I want you to see, dear Christian, that God's immutability is sweet, sacred, and supportive news for your soul!

For instance, one encouraging comfort of God's immutability is that the God of yesterday is the God of today. Meaning if you could trust God in the past and you experienced Him faithfully guide, hold, and sustain you through whatever uphill battle you faced, you can trust Him again today. Unlike an old friend, God doesn't age, God doesn't move away, God doesn't distance Himself to the point where you no longer can call upon Him for help. No, God doesn't change, and God will always be there no matter the day or situation at hand.

Another way to find comfort from this truth is to compare God's unchangeable character to the ups and downs of our own. For example, God doesn't get irritated at us. God doesn't have mood swings. God doesn't go through menopause. God doesn't have a roid rage towards us as His children. No, His love for us never changes in Christ Jesus. His eternal decree is fixed and secure. And His compassionate care is steady and the same in the morning and evening and on Monday as it is on Friday. Theologian A.W. Pink said it this way: "However unstable I may be, however fickle my friends may prove, God changes not. If He varied as we do, if He willed one thing today and another tomorrow, if He were controlled by impulse, who would confide in Him? But, all praise to His glorious name, He is ever the same. His purpose is fixed, His will is stable, His word is sure."

And so, as you face changes in your life... Changes with this upcoming school year, in your occupation, within your family, your health, amongst your church family, don't panic in fear, but rather rejoice in faith knowing that God is Immutable. He will not and cannot change, and this is good news! Declare with a smile during your battle: "On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand..."

Respect the Blood,
Dalton Mathis