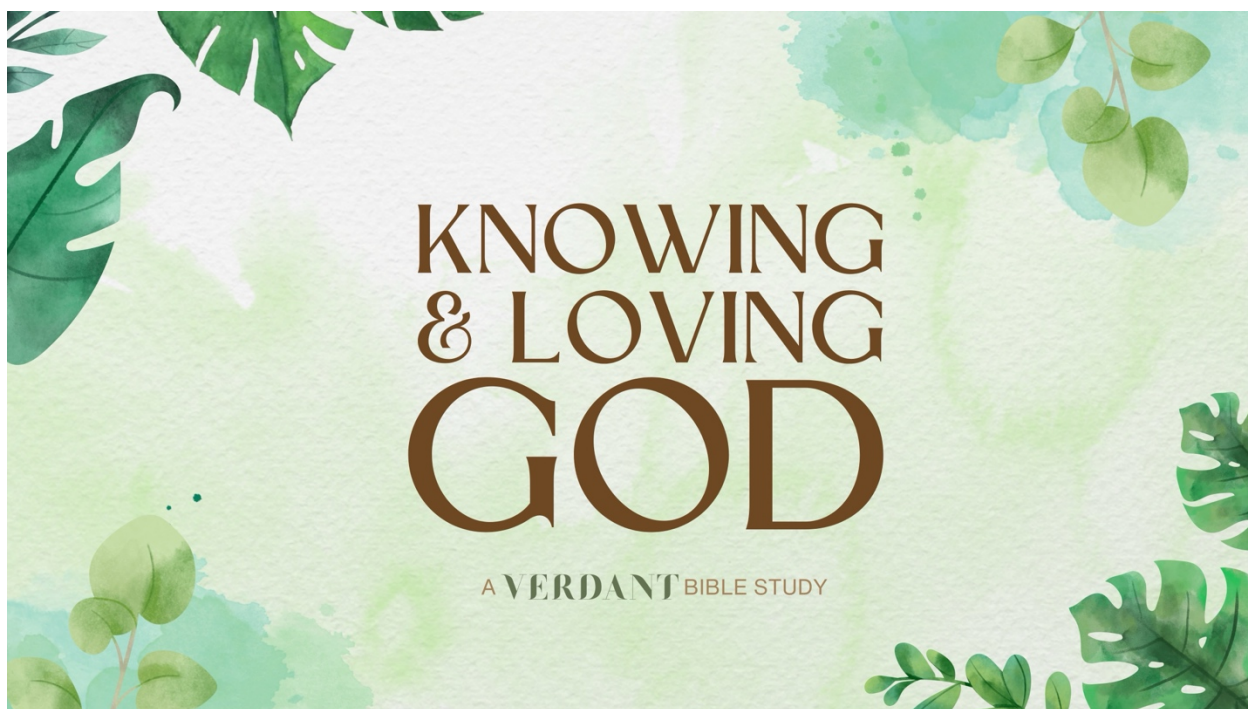




Lesson 6

The Immutability of God

The deeper we go in our study of who God is, the greater He becomes to us. The truth of His greatness eclipses our lack, our changing nature, and our changing circumstances. We need this refocusing and resetting on truth to heal and align our hearts and to be a steadfast anchor in the storms of life. I know I sure need it. In this lesson, we will look at another unfamiliar word—*immutability*—and learn some very significant truths about God as we study this attribute.

Immutability means “not capable of or susceptible to change” (Merriam-Webster); it can also mean steadfast or unfailing. It is the opposite of the word *mutable*, which means inconsistent, prone to change, and capable of mutation. Looking at what immutable is *not* will help us understand what it *is*.

Everything around us is prone to change. Some changes are good. Like a caterpillar changing into a butterfly or a blazing hot day turning blissfully cool. Some changes are hard. Changing jobs. Changing friendships. Changing health. But with most things, we wouldn’t want them to always stay the same. We want hard things to get better, the sickness to heal, the storms to end. But we’re never quite ready to let the good times end. That blissful summer beach day or perfect meal overlooking the ocean ... or even a perfect, warm chocolate chip cookie.

I am thankful that I am mutable, not immutable, because that means I don't have to stay the way I am today. I can keep growing, developing, and changing from sinful and immature to more holy and mature in Christ. More like Him. Holier, wiser, better.

But I am equally thankful that **God does not change**. His immutability declares His unchanging character, attributes, and nature. This means that **God's promises and purposes do not change**. He is free from change. As Tozer points out, God cannot change for the better, because He doesn't need to. But He also cannot change for the worse because there is no imperfection or decline in Him. **He is perfect and eternal and cannot become any greater than He already is.**

His love is unfailing. His justice is perfect. His faithfulness is eternal. The same holy God who walked with Adam and Eve walks with us today. The just Judge of the Old Testament is the same Judge who redeems and forgives mankind through the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
—Hebrews 13:8 ESV

God's character cannot alter or change. The attribute of God's unchanging nature gives us steadfastness that sustains and supports us in any and all situations. It means that He is never inconsistent or in need of growth. He is completely steadfast. He is our Rock and secure foundation. The foundation affects everything that is built upon it. His promises are sure and steadfast. They hold fast, even in the storms of life. He is committed to faithfully keeping His promises.

The Bible speaks of God's immutability most clearly in Malachi 3:6: "For I am the LORD, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed." Did you catch that? Because He doesn't change, we aren't consumed or destroyed. **There is a weighty mercy in the unchanging nature of God.** The cross wasn't God changing His mind; it was His plan all along to redeem humankind. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. His justice isn't diminished because of His mercy. He is always just.

Closing Thought and Prayer

As we have learned through studying other attributes of God, we see that they are all intertwined. The infinitude and holiness of God have no limit or end or change ... but even in His changelessness, He cannot be fully known by limited man. He is infinite and unchanging.

We live in a world filled with change—changing seasons, changing leaders, changing moods, changing culture, and changing relationships. Nothing seems to stay the same. And as Tozer points out:

*Chance and change are busy in our little world of nature and men, but in Thee we find no
variableness nor shadow of turning.*
—A. W. Tozer

God is our Rock and foundation that does not change. From generation to generation, He remains the same. We see this truth most profoundly when viewed alongside our own finite and changing nature. “In God no change is possible; in men change is impossible to escape” (Tozer).

Because all of these things are true about God, we can rest and find security in Him. **Our plans may change, our minds may change, our circumstances may change, but God does not!**

God, I stand in awe of You! You are unstoppable, consistent, and eternally unchanging. You alone are worthy of all glory and praise. Your steadfastness holds me secure in the storms of life. I can trust in, hope in, and rest in You because You love me unconditionally and without fickleness. You don’t change Your mind unexpectedly or leave.

Thank You that in Your perfect plan for redemption, You made it possible for me to change. You don’t leave me as I am, but promise to change me by Your Spirit into Your glorious image.

So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord.

*And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as **we are changed into his glorious image.***

—2 Corinthians 3:18 NLT

In each study, we will look at Scripture and pull it apart to learn what it says and what it means in our lives. The Bible says that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17). So, we want to “hear” what He has to say to us. The following acronym is a helpful guide in our study of God’s Word.

HEAR

H—Highlight

Choose key words, verses, or phrases that stand out to you. Focus your attention and slow down to observe the text.

E—Explain

Ask: What does this mean? Look at the context, original audience, and background to understand the passage.

A—Apply

Ask: How does this apply to my life today? Make it personal. Think about actions, attitudes, or changes God might be speaking to you about.

R—Respond

Talk to God about what you’ve learned. Pray, confess, thank, or make a commitment based on your study.

STUDY

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
—Hebrews 13:8 ESV

1. What is your greatest takeaway from the summary that begins this lesson or from your reading of chapter 9 in *The Knowledge of the Holy*, “The Immutability of God”?
2. Use a dictionary to define the word “immutability,” and write what you learn.
3. “Immutable” is the opposite of “mutable.” Write out the definition of “mutable.” What do you learn?
4. When Daniel was in captivity in Babylon, King Darius made a decree that could not be changed, which ultimately landed Daniel in the lion’s den—a death sentence for worshipping the One true God instead of the king. But Daniel didn’t back down from his commitment to God and what he believed to be true. Read the account in Daniel 6.
 - a. How did Daniel’s faith in God and steadfastness in prayer influence the world around him?

The morning after Daniel spent the night in the lions’ den, King Darius went to see if Daniel’s God had actually saved him. In utter amazement, he found Daniel alive. As a result, he made the following proclamation: “*I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, and **steadfast forever**; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall endure to the end*” (Daniel 6:26 NKJV).

- b. What did King Darius discover about God?
 - i. How did this truth change the way the king lived and affect the people around him?

- c. What do you learn about God from the word “steadfast” in this verse?

5. Read Lamentations 3:21–23 in the ESV translation and note what you learn about God and why we can have hope even in the midst of distress.
 - a. The word “steadfast” in this verse comes from the Hebrew word “hesed.” Use a Bible dictionary to look up “hesed” and write what you discover.

 - b. Write out the following verses and note what is true about God.
 - i. Deuteronomy 7:9

 - ii. Psalm 25:10

6. From the following Scriptures, what do you learn about God? Begin by recognizing and noting the attribute of God declared in these verses and then note what does not change.
 - a. ¹⁴ *God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”* ¹⁵ *God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations* (Exodus 3:14–15 ESV).

 - b. *And he who is the Glory of Israel will not lie, nor will he change his mind, for he is not human that he should change his mind!* (1 Samuel 15:29 NLT).

- c. ¹⁰ 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*” (Hebrews 1:10–12 ESV).
 - d. What perspective do you glean from the truths you discovered in the above verses?
7. One aspect of God’s immutability is that His promises do not change or fail. The Bible declares this truth, saying that His promises and His oaths are *two unchangeable things*. Read Hebrews 6:17–20 and note:
- a. What do you learn about God?
 - b. What is the result in the life of the believer of being an heir to God’s promises? (verse 19)
8. We have great hope because God’s promises are immutable—they do not change or fail. Write your greatest takeaway from the following promises:
- a. Isaiah 41:13
 - b. Psalm 91:4 NLT
 - c. Matthew 28:19-20
 - d. Think of a promise from Scripture that you hold onto and recognize God’s unchanging nature as it relates to that promise. Write your promise here:

9. We see the value and importance of God not changing, but also the joy in the fact that He continues to change us. Read the following verses and write what you discover about being changed into God's image.

a. Romans 12:1–2

i. How can you apply this instruction and truth to your life today?

b. 1 Corinthians 15:58

c. 2 Corinthians 3:18

d. Philippians 3:20–21

10. Where do you need to remember and apply the truth of God's immutability today?

11. What is your greatest takeaway from this lesson on the immutability of God?

*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.*

—James 1:17 ESV