

# Attributes of God: The Immutability of God

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6<sup>th</sup> of June, 2010

## Key Texts

Mal 3:6

Jam 1:17

Heb 13:8

Num 23:19

## Examples of Change

Technology, telecommunications, the weather, relationships, our bodies, financial systems, the universe

## Immutability [def.]

God is unchanging in his being, perfections, purposes and promises. Yet God does act and feels emotions and He acts and feels differently in different circumstances.

## God Doesn't Change

God is perfect and he stays the same throughout the ages. God cannot act in contrary to His nature; eg. He cannot lie.

## Why is this Important?

If God did change His mind, then we would not have surety of our salvation. We need to know that God will keep His promises. We can have hope and faith in God because He does not change.

## Has God Changed His Mind Before?

Exodus 32:9-14; Jonah and the city of Nineveh

In isolation, these scriptures seem to indicate that God can change His mind. However, all of scripture must be considered. With the Israelites, Moses pleaded to God; with the city of Nineveh, the people repented.

In other words, the situation had changed. In both cases, God made a threat, but this actually allowed God to be merciful and allowed the people to change their behaviour.

## Examples of God Keeping His Word

Many examples are recorded in the bible, both in the Old and New Testaments.

Eg. Noah and the flood; Abraham and a son; Joseph and his brothers; Israelites delivered from Egypt; Paul healed by God through Ananias.

John 21:18-19 (Jesus made a promise to Peter)

Acts 12:1-11 (Peter experienced the promise)

## Personal Application

Psalm 46:1-11

Spending more time in prayer and reading the Bible will enable you to see God as unchanging within a changing world. What God says He will do, He will do.

### *Nature of Prayer*

Our prayers do not change the mind of God, however it is a way for God to change our minds. It is about having God's will happening on Earth, not our will happening in heaven.

### *God and Emotions*

God is personal and He does care for us. He is love and He is good.

Heb 6:18-19

Isa 65:4

## Further Scriptures

1 Sam 15:29

Psalm 102:27

Tit 1:2