Approaching God

Begin your time with an opening prayer

Take a moment to quiet your heart and ask God to help you experience his presence today. Ask Him to free you from any distractions as you begin to read and meditate on today's passages.

Today's Theme: God is Immutable

God is unchanging in His being. His character and will are constant.

Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - Slowly Read the Following Passages Start with Engaging the Text: Take a few minutes to highlight, circle, or underline key words.

Psalm 102:25-28

25 Long ago you laid the foundation of the earth and made the heavens with your hands. **26** They will perish, but you remain forever; they will wear out like old clothing. You will change them like a garment and discard them. **27** But you are always the same; you will live forever. **28** The children of your people will live in security. Their children's children will thrive in your presence."

Job 23:8-14

8 I go east, but he is not there. I go west, but I cannot find him. 9 I do not see him in the north, for he is hidden. I look to the south, but he is concealed.
10 "But he knows where I am going. And when he tests me, I will come out as pure as gold. 11 For I have stayed on God's paths; I have followed his ways and not turned aside. 12 I have not departed from his commands, but have treasured his words more than daily food. 13 But once he has made his decision, who can change his mind? Whatever he wants to do, he does. 14 So he will do to me whatever he has planned. He controls my destiny.

Hebrews 6:13-19

13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater to swear by, he swore by himself: 14 I will indeed bless you, and I will greatly multiply you. 15 And so, after waiting patiently, Abraham obtained the promise. 16 For people swear by something greater than themselves, and for them a confirming oath ends every dispute. **17** Because God wanted to show his unchangeable purpose even more clearly to the heirs of the promise, he guaranteed it with an oath, **18** so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. **19** We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain.

James 1:16-18

16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters.
17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.
18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first-fruits of all he created.

Hebrews 13:8

8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Meditation - GOD IS IMMUTABLE Read the short essay from He Reads Truth

As humans, we speak the language of change. We are always seeking the next, the better, the unknown. Even if we prefer to hold change at an arm's length, it is inevitable. The seasons shift, the stars fall, our numbered hairs fall out, and our hearts undergo the only constant we know—change. The book of Ecclesiastes contains this famous refrain, charged with the impatience, discomfort, and hopefulness of our ever-changing lives:

There is an occasion for everything, and a time for every activity under heaven: a time to give birth and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to uproot (3:1–2).

We live our lives seemingly anchored to little more than change itself. And yet Scripture beckons us to drop our anchor and hold fast to the One who never changes. Our God is unchangeable because He is perfect. Nothing can be added or taken away from Him. Everything He does is consistent with who He is. God's promises are the same, and His ability to keep them will never waver. In Malachi 3, God tells His people: "Because I, the LORD, have not changed, you descendants of Jacob have not been destroyed" (v.6). In short, God's immutability means we can count on Him, no matter what.

Job, whose life changed in dramatic and painful ways, knew God to be always true to His character. "He is unchangeable, who can oppose him?" he asked (Job 23:13). Job staked his hope—his life—on his belief that God will always be who He declares Himself to be and do what He says He will do. Job's hope is our hope. Complete, unchangeable, perfect—this is our God. As the ancient doxology "Gloria Patri" declares:

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.

(from the website: <u>hereadstruth.com</u>)

Daily Reflection Questions

- 1. What 1 or 2 verses of today's scripture passages <u>most</u> stood out to you? What was significant for you in those verses?
- 2. How would you briefly summarize what it means that "God is Immutable" in your own words?
- 3. In what areas of your life right now do you most need to believe and trust in this particular attribute of God? How might your life be different if you were able to trust and truly believe in God's Immutability?

Close in Prayer:

- What can I REJOICE IN as a result of today's study?
- What do I need to **REPENT OF** as a result of today's study?
- What do I want to REQUEST FROM God today?