

## The Confidence of an Unchanging God

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Our world is constantly changing. In many respects, change is the only constant in our world. Change is often unsettling and destabilizing. We are typically resistant to change. We want things to stay just as they are. Try as we might, we cannot stop change.

The sun rises and the sun sets. Seasons change. Time steadily marches. People come in and out of our lives. We tear down the old and build the new. Children are born. Loved ones die. Markets rise and fall. Life changes like the tides of the sea.

As humans, we have a deep desire for stability. Much of the change in life is beyond our control. This only heightens our longing for stability. Thankfully, there are sources of permanence in our world. There are means by which we can find steadiness and predictability in our lives despite unsettling change.

**1. God does not change.** The Bible declares the unchanging nature of God. God's power cannot be diminished or overcome by another force. He has no rival or equal. Therefore, He can save and protect us.

God's love does not change. The deep abiding affection He has for the human family is unconditional. When God's love was being questioned by Israel, Jeremiah assured the people, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end" (Lam. 3:22).

God's mind does not change. His sense of purpose is sure and steady: "The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations" (Psa. 33:11). In a world of perpetual change, He is the only source of stability.

**2. God's word does not change.** God keeps His word and fulfills His promises. For example, consider Abraham. God promised to give Abraham and Sara a son despite their advanced age. Abraham believed in God's promise to give him a son. Just as God promised, Abraham and Sara were blessed with a child.

This episode was later remembered as proof of God's unchanging character. The Bible says, "So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us" (Heb. 6:17-18). This is why we can trust God's word.

Today, God's words can be read in the Bible. The Scriptures were breathed or inspired by God (2 Tim. 3:16). They are an expression of His mind and unchanging nature. Therefore, we can and must rely on God's word. While society generationally redefines right and wrong, God's word will prove consistent.

**3. Jesus does not change.** Just as God does not change, Jesus does not change. His love for us is undiminished by the passage of time. His desire for us to be saved remains the same. His expectations for how we live do not change. He unceasingly advocates on our behalf as the Accuser of this world brings false accusations against us. We can have confidence in knowing that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Heb. 3:18).

Jesus and His teaching are the foundation on which He wants us to build our lives. When worldly foundations shake, His foundation is firm and secure (Psa. 11:3). His foundation will withstand the storms of life (Matt. 7:24-28) He is our Rock and cornerstone (Matt. 16:18; 1 Pet. 2:4-9).

**4. The Church does not change.** The Church is the family of God. It represents the collection of the saved in Christ. The Church is a relationship by which we are given protection from the devil. He seeks to destroy the saints of the Church through lies (Rev. 12). Yet, the Church is promised to powerfully withstand his assaults.

The Bible describes the Church as an unmovable kingdom: “Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire” (Heb. 12:28-29). When time ends and the world is judged, only the Church will be saved: “Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power” (1 Cor. 15:24). Therefore, we must become part of the Church by faith in Christ. The Church will provide us stability and strength.

### **Conclusion**

Where are you seeking stability? Where are you placing your confidence? Maybe it is in your education, career, or family. Maybe it is in the hope of a better tomorrow. God wants us to put our confidence in Him and what He has provided. God wants us to trust Him, His Word, His Son, and His Church. He can give us firm footing in life and lead us through the uncharted waters of death.

### **There Stands a Rock**

There stands a Rock on shores of time,  
That rears to heav'n its head sublime;  
That Rock is cleft, and they are blest  
Who find within this cleft a rest.

That Rock's a cross, its arms outspread,  
Celestial glory baths its head;  
To its firm base my all I bring,  
And to the cross of Ages cling.

That Rock's a tow'r, whose lofty height,  
Illumed with heav'n's unclouded light,  
Ope wide its gates beneath the dome,  
Where saints find rest with Christ at home.

Some build their hopes on the ever-drifting sand;  
Some on their fame or their treasure or their land;  
Mine's on the Rock that forever shall stand,  
Jesus, the "Rock of Ages."