

## God Will Never Change

"I am the Lord; I do not change" (Malachi 3:6).

'Lord, You have been our dwelling place through all generations. Before the mountains were created or You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God' (Psalm 90:1 & 2).

Those are reassuring words. Knowing He never changes gives us a feeling of deep security. We can depend on Him. With all the frightening changes that are happening all around us, it is good to know He will never be any different. God will never change, His Word is forever unchangeable, and the way of salvation is consistently the same. One of the names of God is I AM. God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM" and He said, "You shall say this to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you'" (Exodus 3:14). Jesus used the same special Name. Jesus said, "I AM. You will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven" (Mark 14:62). Jesus said he is the first and the last; the beginning and the end (Revelation 22:13). That is why we call Jesus the Rock, because He doesn't change and is always consistent; always there and always the same. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. His mercies never come to an end. His faithfulness endures to all generations. We are reassured God is always gracious, always the same, always loving, always compassionate, always just and always faithful.

Another thing that never changes is the Bible, which is God's Word. It is constant. It doesn't alter or compromise to 'fit in' with our evil modern world. It doesn't change because the Bible has come from an unchanging God. The Bible never needs to be altered or updated; He has had His say and it is settled. 'Forever O Lord, Your Word is settled in heaven' (Psalm 119:89).

The way of salvation does not change. It is by faith. We have been saved and are being prepared for heaven in exactly the same way since Enoch, who was the first recorded man to walk in habitual fellowship with God since the fall of Adam and Eve (Genesis 5:24). Enoch was saved by faith (Hebrews 11:5). Walking with our Lord is the only way of faith, and in order to escape the wrath to come upon the world, we need to put our faith firmly in God, in His Power, in His love and in His mercy. Abraham experienced the salvation of God by being righteous (Genesis 15:6). In the many conversations God had with Abraham, God implied, 'You are fit to come to Me because you have put your faith in Me'. Salvation has been the same ever since. Jesus said, "Your faith has made you whole." Sometimes He added, "Go in peace" (Matthew 9:22; Mark 5:34; 10:52; Luke 8:48). There is nothing we can do to cleanse ourselves enough for the Kingdom of God. We have to put our faith and trust in the Lord Jesus and by faith we are saved, washed and made fit for the Kingdom. It is only through the sacrifice of Jesus we can be made whole, pure and holy. It has always been that way and the way of salvation does not change with the passing of time, so just as the early Christians had to repent, be born-again and be baptised, so people in our day have to do the same. 'Repent and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit' (Acts 2:38).

What does change is mankind. One of the things the Bible tells us, that as believers, we will be changed. Changed in the twinkling of an eye, or so suddenly the change will take place as quickly as we can blink. That is fast! 'In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye ... we shall be changed' (1 Corinthians 15:52). We will be changed into our new resurrected body; an imperishable body. Not one of decayable flesh, but a new heavenly body such as Moses and Elijah had on the mountain when they visited Jesus and spoke about His death and resurrection (Matthew 17:3; Mark 9:4; Luke 9:30 & 31). After Jesus was resurrected He ate some fish and honeycomb, and told the disciples, "See My hands and My feet, that it is I, Myself. Touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones, as you see that I have" (Luke 24:39 to 43). Jesus told Thomas to put his hands into His wounds (John 20:27).

Our new heavenly bodies will be ready and appropriate for heaven. How exciting and amazing is that? That is one change we really do look forward to. When that happens there will be no more pain nor tears, or suffering, or sadness, or sickness, or sin, or poverty and no more death. That change is still in the future for those of us who are on earth. In the meantime, there will be changes deep in our hearts, minds and souls as we walk with God and follow in His footsteps; as He changes us from glory to glory. He is changing us from sinners to saints; metamorphosing us from 'grubs' to 'butterflies'. Changing us to be more like Himself, pruning away the things about us that are not like Jesus and replacing them with things that are like Him. 'All of us, as with unveiled face, continue to behold as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into His very own image from one degree of glory to another; from the Lord, the Holy Spirit' (2 Corinthians 3:18).

It is an ongoing change; a metamorphosis. We are changing from 'grubs' to 'butterflies'. Our change from being an unbelieving sinner bound for hell, to a born-again believer bound for heaven, is one of the few things that is consistent in our lives as God changes us into a new person; into a new creation as the Bible says (2 Corinthians 5:17). The old person has 'passed away' and we have become a new creation. God can change lives. As people become believers and grow up in God, so things like addictions, a bad temper,

violence, theft, selfishness, unwholesome living and wrong attitudes change, and people become citizens of heaven, living wholesome, Godly lives, serving God and serving the community, doing good things. God can restore broken lives and heal deep emotional wounds. He can heal sicknesses and He can heal the effects of a life lived away from God. These changes are a result of salvation and we are compelled to share our salvation knowledge with others, so they too can share in the fruit of Jesus' suffering.

Before we can enter heaven and know the ongoing change in our lives, we must be born anew. Jesus said we are not to be amazed that He expects us to be born-again (John 3:3 to 7). We need to believe on the Lord Jesus our Messiah before we can be saved. We cannot be saved if we do not believe. Jesus will never push Himself onto us; we need to accept the free choice of salvation offered to us. Salvation doesn't happen automatically. Even if we have been raised in a strong Christian home, we still need to accept Jesus' way of salvation for ourselves by faith. First we need to accept the Gospel of the Kingdom and believe in Jesus, then we have to repent of our sin. To repent simply means to change our mind; to go the other way; to turn around and change our attitude to God. We need to acknowledge we are sinners and are going the wrong direction, before we can change our ways and accept God's plan for our lives. We need to believe that Jesus' death was for our sins, and we need to realise we cannot save ourselves. To show the Lord we accept His commands and are willing to be obedient, we need to be baptised in water and the Holy Spirit. This new birth is a radical, profound change, deep in a person's life as they change from living a life of rebellion and disobedience, to a life of submission to God and obedience. We must change if we are going to enter heaven and we should not procrastinate because we do not know how much time we have on this earth. We never know what day may be our last, so we must be saved and born into the Kingdom of God, and we know the Lord's plan of salvation through faith will never change.

Amen and God bless you.

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