

## God Will Never Change

This text should perhaps be called 'Grubs to Butterflies'. God will never change, His word is forever unchangeable, and the way of salvation is consistently the same; but as Christians we must 'metamorph' from 'grubs' to 'butterflies'. Change is one of the few things that is consistent in our lives. Life continually changes. Think of the thousands of modifications in technology, inventions, vehicles, warfare and child rearing, to name a few examples that have taken place in the last 60 years since the Second World War. The world is changing at a rapid rate. We, as humans, are constantly changing, altering and aging. Look at the difference in the appearance between a person of 20 compared to the same person at 60.

There is one thing that never changes though, and that is God. He has been our dwelling place through all generations from everlasting to everlasting, He is God. (See 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. See Malachi 3:6; 'I am the Lord, I do not change'.

One of the names of God is I AM. In Exodus 3:14, God said to Moses; "I AM WHO I AM and WHAT I AM, and I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE; and He said, you shall say this to the Israelites. 'I AM has sent me to you'."

In Mark 14:62 Jesus used the same special Name; 'And Jesus said, "I AM; and you will all see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven'."

In Revelation 1:11 Jesus said he was the Alpha and Omega; the first and the last; the beginning and the end. That's 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 doesn't change 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. In Psalm 119:89 we read; 'Forever O Lord, Your word is settled'.

The way of salvation does not change. It is by faith. We have been saved and 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; see Genesis 5:22. Enoch was saved by faith. That will never change. 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. In the many conversations God had with Abraham in Genesis, 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 in Matthew 9:22; Mark 5:34; Mark 10:52 and Luke 8:48; "Your faith has made you whole." And in some instances He added, "Go in peace."

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. That doesn't change. It has always been that way. The way of salvation doesn't change with the passing of time. What does change though, is us humans. One of the things the Bible tells us is that as Christians, 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! 1 Corinthians 15:52 says; 'In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye...we shall be changed' (transformed).

We will be changed into our new body; a 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. We can read about their earthly visit with Jesus in Matthew 17:2 to 8, Mark 9:2 to 8 and Luke 9:28 to 36. After Jesus was resurrected He told the disciples in Luke 24:39, "See My hands and My feet, that it is I, Myself! Feel and handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones, as you see that I have." In verses 42 & 43, Jesus ate some fish. In John 20:27, Jesus told Thomas to put his hands into His wounds.

Our new heavenly bodies will be ready and appropriate for heaven. How exciting and amazing is that? That is one change that we really do look forward to. When that happens there will be no more pain nor tears nor suffering nor sadness nor sickness nor sin nor 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. Changing us to be more like Himself, pruning away the things about us that are not Christlike, replacing them with things that are Christlike. In 2 Cor 3:18 we read, 'And all of us, as with unveiled face, continue to behold as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image, in ever increasing splendour and from one degree of glory to another; from the Lord Who is the Spirit'.

It is an ongoing change; a metamorphosis. We are changing from 'grubs' to 'butterflies'. God is changing us into a new person; into a new creation as the Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:17. The old person has 'passed away' and we have become a new creation. God can change lives. As people become Christians 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 also heal sicknesses, chronic illnesses 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 you can enter heaven and know the ongoing change in your life, you must be born anew. You need to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ before you can be saved. You can't be saved if you don't believe. The change here is a change of belief. We need to reach out to take it. Jesus will never push Himself onto us; we need to take salvation and accept it. Salvation doesn't happen automatically. Even if you have been raised in a strong Christian home, you still need to accept Jesus' way of salvation for yourself by faith. First we need to believe in Jesus, repent from our sin, then accept the Good News of the Gospel of truth. Repent simply means: change your mind. Go the other way. Turn around. Change your attitude to God. We need to acknowledge we are sinners and are going the wrong way. We need to change our ways and accept God's way. Believe that Jesus' death was for our sins. You, as an individual, need to accept God's way of salvation for yourself. First believe, then repent, then accept Him into your life, then be baptised and you will be saved and healed. You can not save yourself. This new birth is a radical, profound change, deep in a person's life. We must change if we are going to enter heaven. Reach out to Him by faith today, for you don't know if you will have a tomorrow to do it. We never know what day may be our last on earth, so be saved and born into the Kingdom of God.

Amen and God bless you.

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