

God Never Changes

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Staying true to the vision to spread the Gospel and to make disciples of men in the uttermost parts of the world, Pastor Scibelli has ministered in more than 20 African countries and 50 other countries over the last 20 years.

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of [all] lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17). In other words, God doesn’t change.

We derive our peace from an unchanging God. God never changes! Believing that brings peace to my soul. His Word doesn’t change. His character doesn’t change. His Gospel doesn’t change. His mercy endures forever. He is always initiating to us. We are so thankful for an unchanging God.

In James 1:8, we read, “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.” The Greek word for “double minded” (*di-suchos*) means “two souled.” A two-souled person is unstable in all his ways. These people go back and forth—spiritual today; don’t want God tomorrow. Believe God today; don’t believe God tomorrow. That’s instability. Instead of being

changed from glory to glory, they are given to change.

James 4:8 also refers to the two-souled person, and we see that at times in our own lives and throughout Christianity today. But as we saw in James 1:17 and as this booklet will reveal, the power of the Gospel is in this: God doesn't change.

Chapter One

GIVEN TO CHANGE OR BEING CHANGED?

Many changes have taken place. My hair has changed. Things change. Everywhere, all kinds of changes are going on.

I like what Proverbs 24:21 says: “My son, fear the LORD and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change.” Have reverence for the Lord and the king: and meddle not—do not be intertwined, do not intermix, do not have intercourse—with someone given to change. Verse 22 says why: The calamity that they have will be yours. So, we do not intertwine ourselves, or intermix ourselves, or hang around people that are given to change, who are always changing, because we know that God is unchanging.

I love Proverbs 22:28: “Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.” We sing a song called “Ancient Words.” The word

for ancient is *olam*, and more than just “old” it means “eternal.” Eternal landmarks. “Eternal words ever true, changing me and changing you.” That is the right kind of change.

Proverbs 23:10 says, “Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless.” Don’t ever change the landmarks—the eternal landmarks—that the fathers have set. And by the way, if you change the landmarks that the fathers have set, you enter into the field of the fatherless. Isn’t that interesting?

That is why I so much appreciate God’s Word, God’s doctrine, God’s purpose, God’s will, and God’s life. Dr. Stevens has proclaimed that to us. When I first heard his message, his words, in 1977, it was just twenty-nine years ago. You know something? From that day until I was with him the other day in his house for about four or five hours, nothing has changed. Nothing has changed. “Meddle not with them given to change.”

Transformed Without God

Satan is the author of transformation without God. In 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, we read that Satan transforms himself as a minister of righteousness. So don’t marvel that his ministers, his

people, his ambassadors, his workers, transform themselves, change themselves.

That is why change that is outside of God, outside of the Word of God, the grace of God and the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:17-18), is authored by the god of this world—and he’s always changing himself. Doesn’t the Bible say in 2 Corinthians 11:3 and 4 that we should be aware lest the serpent that beguiled Eve should corrupt you from the simplicity that is in Christ?

If someone comes preaching another Jesus, another spirit, or another gospel, would you receive him? Would you receive it? And you know what? Even in Christianity, there are so many movements that are operating outside of that which is unchanging.

The Unchanging One Has Sent You

Have you traveled a little bit? I don’t know how many countries I’ve been in—a hundred or more. I’ve ministered in many different places, and I can’t believe what is actually going on in Christianity, but things are changing. And do you know what? I thank God that God never changes.

In Exodus 3, when Moses spoke with God in the burning bush, he said, “Who shall I tell them

sent me?” What did God say His name was? He said, “ You tell them I AM THAT I AM has sent you.”

What does that mean, I AM THAT I AM”? In the Greek and in the Hebrew, it means the Eternal and Personal Unchanging One. This is the very same thing that Jesus said to the disciples when He was launching them into all the world with the Gospel (Matthew 28:18-20). He didn’t say, “I am with you always.” He said this in the original language: “With you is I AM, the Unchanging One.”

“But by the grace of God I am what I am.” What do you think Paul meant when he said this in 1 Corinthians 15:10? I’m sure it’s connected.

In John 8:58, Jesus said before the Pharisees, “Before Abraham was, I am.” I am. What He was saying is, “I don’t change.” God’s character never changes.

Somebody said, “God changed from the Old Testament to the New Testament.” Really? That’s interesting. Malachi 3:6 says, “For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.” If God changed, we would be in big trouble. Imagine it! “I used to forgive. I don’t anymore. I used to love unconditionally, but I’ve

got some conditions now. I used to answer your prayers but not these. I used to save people through the Gospel, but I've got something else now."

Are you kidding me? Imagine trying to get to know a changing God! That's what it would be like. Did you ever try to get to know a changing person? You think you know them, and then three days later it's somebody else you're talking to—and it's not schizophrenia. It is a different person. "Who are you?"

God never changes, and I love that. There is no variableness in His life. There is no changing in the life of God. Abraham must have been so thankful for that. After he failed with Hagar and had Ishmael, I'm sure he said, "Praise the Lord, God doesn't change." God said to him, "I am El Shaddai. Walk before Me and be perfect." God didn't just toss him away.

Isn't it good that God didn't toss away Moses after he murdered an Egyptian and hid him in the sand? Regardless of what we do, God never changes.

Chapter Two

LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU

I love Numbers 23:19-21. It says, “God is not a man... .” Isn’t that great? God is not man. He became the God-Man, but God is not a man. Then it says He does not lie. Boy, that’s good. God doesn’t lie. You know what else it says? He cannot repent, meaning He can’t change His mind. Then it says He cannot curse. He only blesses. You know what else it says? He cannot behold iniquity. Wow! Look at those five “nots”: not a man, does not lie, cannot change, cannot curse, and cannot behold iniquity. This is the One who lives within us. He’s the unchanging God, and He is still the same.

Down through the history of Christianity, He has not changed. That is why Paul said in Ephesians 4:14, “Do not be tossed and carried about with every wind of doctrine.” All kinds of things will come along; therefore, don’t meddle with them that are given to change.

By the way, people change their lifestyles, then they change their doctrine. There are some people who used to believe in the Finished Work who are not following God today. Do you know what? They changed their lifestyle, then they said doctrine didn't work anymore. They changed their lifestyle and then developed a set of creeds to solidify their lifestyle. That's what people do. They are children tossed and carried about with every wind of doctrine.

We read in Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." He didn't say "tomorrow." He said, "For ever." Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever. Then in verse 9, "Be not carried about with diverse and strange [teachings]. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace...."

Fickle Hearts, Tossed To and Fro

People are always changing. Can you imagine if you were the apostle Paul, if you walked into Lystra, and you prayed for a man who was a cripple, and suddenly the man got up and started walking? They brought garlands of flowers and all kinds of offerings, and they were throwing them at him, and saying, "He is a god. Paul and Barnabas are Mercury and Jupiter!"

Do you know what happened? Some people trickled up from another city, went to some people in Lystra, and started to create some turmoil. One minute these fickle people were throwing crowns and garlands at Paul, wanting to worship him as a god. The next minute they were throwing stones at him—trying to kill him.

People are interesting, aren't they? I've seen it before. "We love you, Pastor." Then, a week later, "I can't stand him." The same people who said they loved you are asking you to leave. It happened to me. I remember those days. "We love you. You're awesome. What a great man of God." Then I came back and they said, "Would you mind leaving this church?"

Thank God that He never changes, right? Isn't it good? Listen, He is not a man. I like what Hosea 11:9 says, "I am God, and not a man." I'm glad. I'm glad God became a Man, but I'm glad that God doesn't think and operate like humanity separated from God. God never changes. He does not change. And this is what we have to hold on to in our lives, from start to finish. God is eternal, and He never changes.

This is what I love about this ministry. We are still preaching categorical doctrine, not stories, illustrations, newspapers, politics, money,

blessing, miracles, tongues, and a psychological analysis of the congregation. We are preaching doctrine—God’s thoughts from the Bible, line upon line, specifically, for every situation—and we haven’t changed.

Throughout the whole Bible, God talks about the importance of categorical doctrine. Just read Matthew 7:28, “They were astonished at Jesus’ doctrine (teaching).” Paul taught doctrine. Read Philippians 1-4. He uses the word *phroneo* about six times, and it speaks of having God’s mindset. Pastor Stevens preached doctrine. We are still preaching doctrine—God’s precise thoughts on a subject from start to finish so we will know how God thinks. Therefore, it’s very easy for us to change—to be changed into His likeness—because God is not going to change. Somebody’s got to change. I think it’s me.

It’s still the same. It’s not different. It is doctrine. It’s Bible college. It’s rap sessions. It’s the Word of God. It’s exegetical teaching. It’s strong preaching. It’s ministering the Word of life to people.

You know what else it is? It is still the Gospel. Someone from El Salvador goes to the Ukraine. We go from outreach in Baltimore, into

India, Africa, South America, and all around the world. That hasn't changed.

I Shall Not Be Moved

I preached a message one time, and there were seven pastors sitting there on the platform. I said to the assembly, "This is my last message in this city. Don't ever listen to them again. They don't go soul-winning, so they've got nothing to say." I'm sorry if that offended you, but that is just what I said to them, and they asked me to leave immediately, if not sooner. They said, "You could leave right now." I said, lovingly, "I will be leaving right now, but I will finish this exhortation."

They had changed! They had taken on some new strange doctrines. The Gospel wasn't important. Instead, it was, "Let's add believers from other churches who aren't saved by watering down the message."

Oh, really? Do you think you're going to get the leaders of this church to water down the message? That is not going to happen. You know what? The messages are so hot you can't touch it—the pulpit's on fire. This ministry is not changing because God doesn't change. I don't care what goes on out there. I'm not interested

in keeping people if you have to water down the message or break it down into something conventional that is not truth. They come because the enemy sends them. Give me a few people who love God and the Bible, and I'll be happy.

I love the fact that we have a lot of people in our church, and do you want to know something? This ministry is not changing, because God doesn't change. This ministry still believes in Body life—soma life—not just church, not just an ecclesiastical organization. But this church is family. This is a Body. These are friendships. This is life. These are friendships and relationships that are eternal, and we're going to be together forever. (So I hope you get to like me. I'd like to say maybe I'll be different there!)

This church is not changing. Body life, prayer meetings, the grace message, the Finished Work—these things are not changing.

Chapter Three

YOU CAN'T CHANGE WHAT IS FINISHED

Somebody said to me recently, “You know, the Finished Work, ah, I don’t know. Do you think the Finished Work works?”

This is Finished Work: It’s eternal security. It’s the blood of Christ. It’s the work of the Cross. It’s reconciliation. It’s not His death alone. It’s the Blood. It’s the Blood. It’s the work of God. It’s the Cross. That is not changing. It ain’t changing. Nope. Shoot us. Step on us. Kick us. Beat us. Throw us out of Lystra. We’ll come back in. It’s not changing.

The unity is not changing. Doing things decently and in order—that’s not changing. Why? Because God is unchanging. He cannot lie. He doesn’t change His mind. God doesn’t repent. God doesn’t change His mind. I like Romans 11:29, “The gifts”—His gifts for you and me—“and calling of God are without God changing

His mind.” The word is not “repentance”; it is *ametameleomai*, which means God is not changing His mind. God gave you gifts. God called you. Do you think God changed His mind just because people change? God doesn’t change.

God didn’t change with Peter just because Peter cut a guy’s ear off. Whing! Peter was like this revolving door. One minute, he was speaking a revelation from heaven. “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” The next minute, he said, “Don’t go to the cross.” He was speaking from darkness. You never know what’s going to happen with people. You have no idea.

Peter changed. Lot changed. Demas changed. By the way, Demas was in jail with Paul (Colossians 4:14). Then he left him (2 Timothy 4:11) because he “agaped” the present world system. He was in jail for the Gospel, and then he left Paul because he loved the world. Something happened to Demas. A change took place, and he was receptive to initiations from the world, the flesh, and darkness. His life went in another direction.

Oh, God, help me. I don’t want to go in another direction. I’d rather have God take me home early than be a person who becomes an operative for change, because Satan is always

transforming himself and changing himself.

Did you ever try to change yourself? How did it go? You did well? The devil will let you do well for awhile when you operate in self-change, or self-transformation. You can do it for awhile. He backs the demons off, and you think everything is fine because of what you did. Then do you know what happens? You realize after a while that nothing's really changed. God is the only One who can do the work. It's called metamorphoo—change on the inside. “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...” (Romans 12:2a).

Changed by an Unchanging God

Drug addicts can change. Alcoholics can change. A passive person can become active. A person who didn't care about God and the call can, all of a sudden, let the call grab hold of them and be mightily used of God. A person who could never love can receive unconditional love. A person who operated without any strength can receive the strength of God. A change takes place, and it's because of an unchanging God.

I thank God that over thousands of years,

He has never changed. Oh, the churches are changing, and people are changing, and pulpits are changing. Do you see this pulpit? This is sacred. This is a sacred place in this assembly, with this congregation, with this assembly. With Pastor Stevens, Pastor Schaller, all the leadership, and all that has taken place here, this pulpit will remain the same. And I'm sure, because of the convictions of you who have received this message, that you would never allow a change to take place.

Are you with me? Do you want to hear about the latest way to make a change in the soul through some improvised psychological system? By the way, I've been that route, too—that whole psychological thing. I ran a counseling center, handled a thousand clients a year. Do you know what I did when they walked in? I gave them the Bible. "It's the Bible," I'd say. "Let's read the Bible."

"Well, what are you telling me? Do you know anything about Freud?"

"He's lost! That's what I know about him. It's the Bible."

This Book doesn't change. This is an eternal Book. Heaven and earth will pass away, but this Word will not. That's how we counsel people.

What do you want, some new theory? I have a theory for you: “Eternal words ever true, changing me and changing you.” God doesn’t change.

I can wake up tomorrow and be a mess, but God hasn’t changed. He says, “Just come to Me with your burdens and your heavy labor, and I’m going to take them, just like I did yesterday. I paid for your sins—and that is for today just like it was yesterday. I don’t lie. I won’t curse you. I won’t behold iniquity. I’m not a man. I’m not like a human being in My thinking. I love you. That’s not changing. I’ve got truth. I am the truth. You can bank on that for the rest of your life and on into eternity.”

Don’t you love that? God doesn’t change. That gives me peace in my soul—peace like a river. I’ve got peace, harmony with God, because God doesn’t change.

I know I’m not changing Him, so I will let Him change me. Amen? Just let Him change you. Just be available. In Genesis 22:1 and 11, Abraham said to the Lord, “Here I am. Here I am, God.” I’m not much but I know You are awesome, and You can change me. I don’t think right. I don’t feel right. I make wrong decisions, but You, God, are unchanging.

By the way, an unchanging God always

wants to change us. He does it with His grace, His love, His mercy, His truth, His Spirit, His power, His encouragement, and His comfort. Thank God that we have an unchanging God and an unchanging ministry.

CONCLUSION

Maybe there are areas in your life where there's a struggle, where there is warfare. There are things that have been there for a long time. God says, "Just trust Me tonight. I love you. I will change you. I desire to change you." He can remove anything in a moment of time—any area, any problem, any stronghold. Thank Him.

Just ask. Just ask Jesus, in whom there is no variableness nor shadow of turning. Jesus Christ—the same yesterday, today, and forever. "Thou art the same," (Hebrews 1:12). Thank You—the great I AM living in us. Do a work in us, God, a work that only You can do. A Finished Work word will change us today—the mercy of God, the initiation of His eternal words ever true. Just believe in His ability to change us. It's only an unchanging God that could change us.

Father, thank You that You are God and not a man. You don't lie. You don't curse us. You don't

behold our iniquity. You do not change. Thank You, Jesus. When we don't know, our head is spinning but Your head is still. Our will is running and You're standing still. We pray, God, that You would touch our lives. Ancient words—eternal words—ever true.

I AM THAT I AM—You came into our lives, and You will never change. We thank You, God, for Your character, the Person of who You are, the work that You've done, the life that You have given us, the Body of Christ, the Gospel, and the Finished Work. We thank You so much tonight. May we go forward with such an encouragement and such desire to continually fellowship with an unchanging God. This is what our lives are based upon. Let our hearts be established in grace. In Jesus' name, amen.