

SHEPHERD'S COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday ABF – March 2

“The Knowledge of the Holy”

by A.W. Tozer

CHAPTER 9

The Immutability of God

In the beginning You laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands.

They will perish, but You remain; they will all wear out like a garment.

Like clothing You will change them and they will be discarded.

But You remain the same, and Your years will never end (Psalm 102:25-27).

"I the LORD do not change" (Malachi 3:6 a).

*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights,
who does not change like shifting shadows (James 1:17).*

1) What would it feel like to go back to your hometown, or see the house in which you grew up, and find that everything has changed? How would your heart respond if everything was exactly as you remember it? Now ponder this: God is our All-satisfying Joy who never changes!

2) The Bible clearly teaches that God does not change—He is immutable. “Immutable” is the opposite of “mutation” or change. *Im - mutable* = does not mutate or change.

There are two ways in which God is immutable:

- God cannot change who He is (I AM.). His essence, nature, and attributes remain the same forever. This is known as *ontological immutability*.
- God cannot break His promises (*ethical immutability*) because He is always faithful and true!

Based on this definition of immutability, in what way can we be like God?

“We rest in Thee without fear or doubt and face tomorrows without anxiety. *Amen.*” A.W. Tozer

3a) What kind of God would God be if He could improve?

3b) What kind of God would God be if He could become less than He is?

3c) What would God be like if His moral character could change? Could we trust a God like this?

4) Did God change His mind about Nineveh (read Jonah) or Saul (please read 1 Samuel 15:10-35)?

5) **If God does not change, how is it that we can grieve the Spirit or anger God? Isn't that change?**
(Professor Bruce Ware says that emotions are theomorphic not anthropomorphic. **What does he mean?**)

6) It can be a joyful and painful experience to see ourselves change over the years. **Can you give an example of both? How does the change that occurs in humans bring glory to God?**

7) **What is “the great sickness” Tozer mentions in Chapter 9? What is its cure?**

8) Billions of dollars are spent each year in the United States to prevent aging. Yet, “Oil of Delay” cannot alter the reality of our mortality. Tozer exclaims, “in a fallen world such as this the very *ability* to change is a golden treasure, a gift from God of such fabulous worth as to call for constant thanksgiving.” **In the face of our society’s obsession with youth, why does Pastor Tozer say this?**

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18).

9) **Can we honestly say that we love Jesus Christ if we are consistently unwilling to *change* to become like Him?**

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

“In all our efforts to find God, to please Him, to commune with Him, we should remember that all change must be on our part.” A.W. Tozer

10) Some professing Christians see *Theology Proper* (the study of God and His character) as boring. Apparently these Christians are more suited to a “blind date!”

But, Pastor Tozer says that there are other people who “believe they were created to worship God and to enjoy His presence forever, and they are eager to learn all they can about the God with whom they expect to spend eternity.” **Are you willing to keep going in our search for *hidden treasure*—the knowledge of the True God?**