

## Knowing God Series

### “GOD IS IMMUTABLE” (Mal. 3:6)

#### INTRODUCTION:

Malachi 3:6a (NLT)

6 “I am the Lord, and I do not change. ...

- In this verse, the Lord declares His Name as:
  - **Jehovah = the Self-Existent, Eternal One**

#### **NOTE:**

God is never revealed in the bible in a DRY, PURELY THEOLOGICAL WAY

- He is almost always revealed in some DIMENSION of His CHARACTER and NATURE
- Usually woven out of some ACT of His; and demonstration of HIS NATURE.
- In CONTEXT of His PROMISES or COMMANDMENTS
- HE NEVER CHANGES

#### **I. PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS OF GOD’S IMMUTABILITY:**

But the **unchangeableness** of God is:

- the denial of all imperfection,
- the denial of all dependence on circumstances,
- the denial of all possibility of decay or exhaustion,
- the denial of all inconsistency.
- the assurance that His is an underived, self-dependent being, and that with Him is the fountain of light;
- the assurance that, above the limits of time and the succession of events, He is in the **eternal present**, where all things that were and are, and are to come, stand naked and open.

#### **NOTE:**

**THIS IS A DIFFICULT CONCEPT FOR OUR FINITE MINDS TO UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY.**

**EL OLAM = THE GOD OF ETERNITY (PLACE OF NO TIME!)**

Psalm 90:2 (NKJV)

Before the mountains were brought forth,  
Or ever You had formed the earth and the world,  
***Even from everlasting to everlasting***, You *are* God.

Isaiah 40:28 (NLT)

Have you never heard?

Have you never understood?

The Lord is the ***everlasting God***,  
the ***Creator*** of all the earth.

He never grows weak or weary.

No one can measure the depths of his understanding.

### **AS CREATOR:**

- External circumstances cannot exert any influence on Him.
- If He became SUBJECT to any circumstances, He would CEASE TO BE OMNIPOTENT
- If CULTURAL MORES or PHILOSOPHIES exerted any influence on Him, He would CEASE TO BE OMNISCIENT!
- It is IMPOSSIBLE for the ONE who Created ALL things to be subject to anything He created!
- **The EVERLASTING GOD cannot ever change Himself, nor can ANYTHING OR ANYONE ELSE CHANGE HIM!**

- **HE IS ABSOLUTE PERFECTION**

**NOTE:**

**THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE GOD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT AND THE GOD OF THE NEW TESTAMENT! HE IS THE SAME! OUR EXPERIENCE OF HIM IS PURELY A RESULT OF THE MINISTRY OF THE MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND MANKIND – JESUS CHRIST!  
BE CAREFUL HOW YOU OR OTHERS CHARACTERIZE HIM!**

## **II. THE IMPACT OF GOD'S IMMUTABILITY ON OUR LIVES:**

- My AIM is not only to list the CONCEPT of God's IMMUTABILITY
- Need to be PRACTICAL and EQUIPPING for us.

**NOTE:**

**THIS IS PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO UNDERSTAND ABOUT KNOWING GOD AND WALKING IN HIS WAYS!**

- **GOD'S WAYS DON'T CHANGE**
- **GOD'S WORD DOESN'T CHANGE**
- **HIS METHODS ARE INNUMERABLE**

**QUESTION:**

**SO THEN WHY DO SO MANY PEOPLE MAINTAIN SUCH DIFFERENT AND DIVERGENT VIEWS OF GOD? (IF HE IS UNCHANGABLE)**

**ILLUSTRATION: *Downloading the right driver.***

- Most of us have had the experience of DOWNLOADING A NEW PRINTER on our computer
- We need to DOWNLOAD the right DRIVER so the printer will work as

- designed; performing all the functions its designer intended it to.
- Without the RIGHT DRIVER, certain features will not function, it may not work at all!

**ANSWER:**

**SOME PEOPLE DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT "DRIVER" INSTALLED IN THEIR HEARTS! THAT IS THE REASON FOR SO MANY DIFFERENT AND DIVERGENT VIEWS OF GOD – THEY CANNOT ALL BE RIGHT!**

**WHAT IS OUR "DRIVER"?**

**THE CONDITION OF OUR "HEARTS" TOWARD GOD!**

**A "PURE" HEART = not a sinless, perfect heart; but an UNDIVIDED heart.**

**A pure heart is a heart with ONE, SINGULAR, LOYALTY and a LIFESTYLE that demonstrates it.**

**A 'DIVIDED' HEART = a heart with many loyalties; shifting due to internal and external pressures and circumstances.**

**Scripture References:**

Psalm 51:10 (NLT)

Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Renew a loyal spirit within me.

Psalm 86:11 (NLT)

Teach me your ways, O Lord,

that I may live according to your truth!

Grant me purity of heart,

so that I may honor you.

Matthew 5:8 (NLT)

God blesses those whose hearts are pure,  
for they will see God.

**NOTE:**

**TO THE OBEDIENT WITH AN UNDIVIDED HEART, THE IMMUTABILITY OF GOD IS A BLESSING. TO THE DISOBEDIENT WITH DIVIDED LOYALTIES, IT IS A STUMBLINGBLOCK AND A CURSE.**

**III. TWO BIBLICAL EXAMPLES: DAVID AND SAUL BEFORE GOLIATH:**

- **DAVID – an undivided heart**
- **KING SAUL – a man of divided heart**

**David = a shepherd boy going to bring provisions to his brothers in Saul's army**

**Saul = the King of Israel (her first earthly king)**

**Their BEHAVIOR gives EVIDENCE to the HEART they maintained toward GOD!**

Acts 13:22 (NLT)

**22** But God removed Saul and replaced him with David, a man about whom God said, *'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart. He will do everything I want him to do.'*

**DAVID: THE UNDIVIDED HEART**

1 Samuel 17:37 (NLT)

The Lord who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!" (ELABORATE)

**POINTS:**

- **THE GOD YOU TRUSTED TO DEFEND YOU IN THE PAST DOESN'T CHANGE BECAUSE THE PROBLEM GETS BIGGER**
- **THE GOD WHO DEFENDED AND PROTECTED YOU IN PRIVATE WILL ALSO PROTECT AND DEFEND YOU IN PUBLIC**
- **THE GOD WHO USED YOU THE WAY YOU WERE IN THE PAST WILL USE YOU THE WAY YOU ARE IN THE PRESENT (“I CAN’T USE THESE...” v39)**
  - The most LIBERATING and FAITH-FILLED words of a man who knows GOD NEVER CHANGES
  - THERE WILL BE TIME FOR GROWTH, IMPROVEMENT AND ARMOR (HIS OWN)
  - GOD WANTS TO USE HIS DAVIDS ***THE WAY THEY ARE; WITH WHAT THEY CAN DO; AND WITH WHAT THEY KNOW NOW!***
- **THE UNDIVIDED HEART SEES GOD BIGGER THAN HIS PROBLEMS**

1 Samuel 17:46 (NLT)

Today ***the Lord*** will conquer you, and ***I will kill you*** and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel!

### **KING SAUL: THE DIVIDED HEART**

1 Samuel 13:12 (NLT)

So I said, 'The Philistines are ready to march against us at Gilgal, and I haven't even asked for the Lord's help!' So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering myself before you came." (ELABORATE)

- Overwhelming circumstances: 3,000 chariots, 6,000 charioteers
- Samuel instructed Saul to wait for him to arrive to sacrifice before going to battle.

- Saul waited 7 days, then offered the sacrifice himself; afterwards, Samuel arrived

#### POINTS:

- (v8) HE LET CIRCUMSTANCES PUSH HIM INTO DISOBEDIENCE (AS IF GOD HAD CHANGED HIS PROMISE THROUGH SAMUEL!
  - HE SAW "HIS TROOPS" SLIPPING AWAY (I guess he forgot Gideon)
  - PRIDE and SELF-WILL signifies a LOYALTY to HIMSELF rather than God
- (v11) The DIVIDED HEART ALWAYS PLAYS THE "BLAME GAME" TO JUSTIFY SELF-WILL (PRIDE) *"...YOU DIDN'T COME WHEN YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO..."*
- (v12) The DIVIDED HEART will always try to sound "spiritual" as a cover for disobedience. *"The armies were ready to march and I hadn't even sacrificed to the Lord yet."*
- (v13) THE DIVIDED HEART DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THAT 99% OBEDIENCE IS STILL DISOBEDIENCE!

1 Samuel 13:13 (NLT)

**13** *"How foolish!"* Samuel exclaimed. "You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you. Had you kept it, *the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.*"

#### NOTE:

**GOD NEVER CHANGES. HIS PLANS AND PURPOSES NEVER CHANGE. HOWEVER, OUR USEFULNESS IN HIS HAND AND HIS PLAN CHANGE AS A RESULT OF THE CONDITION OF OUR HEARTS!**

#### ONE CLOSING THOUGHT:

**Between Malachi 3:6 (The last book in scripture to the Jewish People in OT) and**

**Hebrews 13:8 (the Only book directed to the Jewish people in NT)**

**THERE WERE 400 YEARS OF SILENCE!**

**NOTE:**

**IT DOESN'T MATTER IS YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THE VOICE OF GOD OVER A LONG PERIOD OF SILENCE. REST ASSURED THAT BETWEEN THE LAST TIME YOU HEARD HIM AND NOW, HE HASN'T CHANGED!**

**THE GOD WHO NEVER CHANGES IN MALACHI IS THE "SAME, YESTERDAY, TODAY AND FOREVER...RIGHT NOW!**

**PRAYER:**

- **GOD NEVER CHANGES, BUT OUR HEARTS MUST**
- **PRAYER FOR AN UNDIVIDED HEART**
- **REPENT FOR HAVING A DIVIDED HEART**
  - **Playing the BLAME game**
  - **Playing the RELIGIOUS game**
  - **Letting circumstances push you into disobedience**
  - **Letting emotions push you into disobedience**

**YOU CAN HAVE A NEW BEGINNING TODAY!**