**None Like Him Reading Guide #6**

**Immutable: The God of Infinite Sameness**

*The Scriptures speak of a God who does not change. Like the tallest mountain peak on the horizon, from generation to generation, God stands unchanging, immutable, anchoring the landscape of human existence as all else around him ebbs and flows blossoms and withers, waxes, and wanes. The Rock of our salvation endures. The sunshine and shadows of human circumstances may reveal certain contours of his character one day and different ones the next, but his character remains fixed. His plans remain steady. His promises remain firm. In an ever-changing world, he is the unchanging reference point upon which the inner eye fixes to determine the direction that leads to home. –Jen Wilkin*

**1 This week we are looking at the immutability of God. What does immutability mean?**

**2 Below are several verses that will help in this week’s study. Summarize each passage.**

**Numbers 23:19 -**

**Psalm 18:31 –**

**Malachi 3:6 –**

**Hebrews 13:8 –**

**James 1:17-**

**3 We need God to stay the same. True/False. Why?**

*Because God does not change, we can rely on the unchanging truth of Scripture. What he pronounces as sin will always be sin. What he pronounces as good will always be good. All that he has promised to do must come to pass. The gospel itself is bound up in the idea of God’s immutability. We fervently need God to stay the same – our great hope of salvation lies in his remaining exactly as who he says he is, doing exactly what he has said he will do. – Wilkin*

**4.What are your thoughts concerning the paragraph above?**

**5 If God never changes – why pray?**

*This brings us to one of our questions of why pray if you can’t really change the mind of God? Let’s understand the objective of prayer is not to change God. The objective of prayer is to change me. The object of prayer is not to bend the will of God to mine, but to get my will in line with His. Instructing, informing, or bending the arm of God is what prayer is not. True prayer is not overcoming God’s reluctance; it is laying hold of His willingness. That is a very important thing to know. God only answers the requests that He inspires. If you want to see your prayers answered more often in the affirmative, you have to lock in to what the will of God is. – Greg Laurie*

*A proper and biblical grasp of divine immutability must recognize the difference between* ***unconditional divine decrees*** *and* ***conditional divine announcements (or warnings****). The former will occur irrespective of other factors. The latter may occur, dependent on the response of the person or persons to whom they apply. Examples of an unconditional decree would be Num. 23:19; 1 Sam. 15:29; Psalm 110:4; Jeremiah 4:28; Ezek. 24:14; Zech. 8:14. Examples of conditional announcements or warnings would be Exodus 32:12,14; Amos 7:3,6; Jeremiah 15:6; 18:8,10; 26:3,13,19; Joel 2:13-14; Jonah 3:9-10; 4:2. – Sam Storms*

*I tell myself that my love of routine and my aversion to change are a longing for the God who does not change, but if I am honest, they are just plain idolatry. In truth, I am telling temporary changing things, “I need you to be God. Please just stay the same.” But the worst part is not that I ask the world around me not to change. The worst part is that, when confronted with my own entrenched sin, my immediate defense is to say, “That’s just who I am. I can’t change.” I can’t change. Immutable. Lie. Lie from the pit of hell. Whether uttered in hopelessness or defiance, this statement is a lie. Only one person does not change, and that is God. But when faced with the need to turn form sin, I answer the question of “Who is unchanging?” with “I Am.” Just as my assurance of salvation rest in the fact that God cannot change, my hope of sanctification rests in the fact that I can. – Wilkin*

**6 Have you ever responded after being challenged to an entrenched sin or behavior with the statement “That’s just who I am – I can’t change?**

*Idolatry takes hold of you and me when we depend on a human relationship, a circumstance, or possession to* ***neve****r leave nor forsake us, to* ***always*** *remain. Idolatry takes hold of us when we believe that a difficult relationship or circumstance will never change, will always be hopeless, wounding, or sorrowful. But here is the truth to topple idols:*

*Every circumstance you encounter will change except the circumstance of your forgiveness.*

*Every possession you own will pass away except the pearl of your salvation.*

*Every relationship you enter will waver except your adoption by your heavenly Father. - Wilkin*

*Immutability provokes sinners to enmity. The world hates God because it knows that His unchangeableness guarantees He cannot forget or overlook its rebellion. But for Christians, the unchanging character of God is the rock upon which we stand in all our circumstances. – Jonathan Edwards.*

**7. This is one of the most challenging attributes of God to grasp. What questions do you have? What are one or two “takeaways” from this reading guide? How might you apply them to your life?**