

Hebrews 6.18 That by two **immutable** things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

1. Definition of Immutability: Immutable

a. International Standard Bible Encyclopedia Immutability; Immutable:

i-mu-ta-bil'-i-ti, i-mu'-ta-b'-l (ametathetos): Occurs in [Heb 6:17,18](#) of the unchangeableness of the Divine counsel. It is the perfection of Yahweh that He changes not in character, will, purpose, aim ([Mal 3:6](#); so of Christ, [Heb 13:8](#)).

Heb 6.17 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the **immortality** of his counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath:

Heb 6.18 That by two **immutable** things, in which *it* was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

b. Strong's Concordance: Strong's Number: g276 Greek: ametathetos

Immutable, Immutability: an adjective signifying "immutable" (a, negative, metatithemi, "to change"), Heb 6:18, where the "two immutable things" are the promise and the oath. In Heb 6:17 the word is used in the neuter with the article, as a noun, denoting "the immutability," with reference to God's counsel. Examples from the papyri show that the word was used as a technical term in connection with wills, "The connotation adds considerably to the force of Heb 6:17 (and foll.)" (Moulton and Milligan).

Synonyms & Similar Words

unchangeable	unchanging	fixed
unalterable	invariable	determinate
steadfast	inflexible	inalterable
constant	hard-and-fast	incommutable
changeless	established	unaltered
steady	stable	unvarying
immovable	settled	unmovable

c. Faithful: Faithfulness

[Faithful; Faithfulness - International Standard Bible Encyclopedia \(blueletterbible.org\)](http://blueletterbible.org)

Faithfulness is one of the characteristics of God's ethical nature. It denotes the firmness or constancy of God in His relations with men, especially with His people. It is, accordingly, one aspect of God's truth and of His unchangeableness. God is true not only because He is really God in contrast to all that is not God, and because He realizes the idea of Godhead, but also because He is constant or faithful in keeping His promises, and therefore is worthy of trust (see TRUTH). God, likewise, is unchangeable in His ethical nature. This unchangeableness the Scripture often connects with God's goodness and mercy, and also with His constancy in reference to His covenant promises, and this is what the Old Testament means by the Faithfulness of God (see UNCHANGEABLENESS).

1. Faithfulness of God in the Old Testament:

In the Old Testament this attribute is ascribed to God in passages where the Hebrew words denoting faithfulness do not occur. It is implied in the covenant name Yahweh as unfolded in [Ex 3:13-15](#), which not only expresses God's self-existence and unchangeableness, but, as the context indicates, puts God's immutability in special relation to His gracious promises, thus denoting God's unchangeable faithfulness which is emphasized in the Old Testament to awaken trust in God ([De 7:9](#); [Ps 36:5](#) ([Hebrew 6](#)); [Isa 11:5](#); [Ho 12:6,9](#)).

2. Faithfulness of God in the New Testament:

In the New Testament teaching concerning the faithfulness of God the same idea of faithfulness to His gracious promises is emphasized and held up as the object of a confident trust in God. This idea is usually expressed by the adjective pistos, and once by the noun pistis, which more frequently has the active sense of faith or trust.

This attribute is also ascribed to Christ in the New Testament. Where Jesus is called a faithful high priest, the idea expressed is His fidelity to His obligations to God and to His saving work ([Heb 2:17](#); [3:2,6](#)). But when in the Book of Revelation Jesus Christ is called the "faithful witness" or absolutely the "Faithful and True," it is clear that the quality of faithfulness, in the most absolute sense in which it is characteristic of God in contrast with human changeableness, is ascribed to Christ ([Re 1:5](#); [3:14](#); [19:11](#)).

In summing up the Scripture teaching concerning God's faithfulness, three things are noteworthy. In the first place, this characteristic of God is usually connected with His gracious promises of salvation and is one of those attributes which make God the firm and secure object of religious trust. As is the case with all the Scripture teaching concerning God, it is the religious value of His faithfulness which is made prominent. In the second place, the so-called moral attributes, of which this is one, are essential in order to constitute God the object of religion, along with the so-called incommunicable attributes such as Omnipotence, Omnipresence and Unchangeableness.

2. The Unchangeableness of God's Divine Counsels

[The Attributes of God - Part 1b | Precept Austin](#)

Watch and listen to Charles Haddon Spurgeon's message on "The Unchangeable Christ" ([The Unchangeable Christ, A Sermon No. 2358](#)) (Here is the text of his sermon -- [Hebrews 13:8 The Unchangeable Christ](#))

Immutability means that God is not subject to change through time or circumstances. He is invariable. In His nature and character, God is absolutely without change. In God's essence, attributes, consciousness and will, He is unchangeable. Ponder the significance of this truth, in light of other truths about God such as "God is love." ([1Jn 4:8, 16](#)). What does the truth of immutability add to the truth that God is love? Below is **C H Spurgeon's** "answer" to this question...

Every Christian is to be a testifier. He is to be a witness with heart and lips. All the other creatures speak not with words. They may sing as they shine, but they cannot sing vocally. It is the believer's part in the great chorus to lift up voice and heart at once, and as an intelligent, living, loving, learning witness, to testify to God. In the first place we have known that God's love to us is undeserved. Another thing we can bear testimony to, is this — that the love of God is unconquerable. We strove against God's love, but it conquered us. We can say concerning His love that it has never been diminished by all the sins we have ever committed since we believed. We have often revolted, but we have never found Him unwilling to forgive.

**We have known and we have believed
the love of God to us to be perfectly immutable.**

I will make but one other remark here, and that is, we can bear our willing witness that the love of God to us has been an unfailing support in all our trials. This great truth is the groundwork of Christian encouragement.

The Divine Counsels of God :

- A. Are Immutable, [Psa 33:11](#); [Pro 19:21](#); [Jer 4:28](#); [Rom 9:11](#); [Hbr 6:17](#)
- B. Are Sovereign, [Isa 40:13,14](#); [Dan 4:35](#)
- C. Are Eternal, [Eph 3:11](#)
- D. Are Faithfulness and Truth, [Isa 25:1](#)
- E. None Can Disannul, [Isa 14:27](#)
- F. Shall Be Performed, [Isa 14:24](#); [46:11](#)
- G. The Sufferings and Death of Christ Were According, [Act 2:23](#); [4:28](#)
- H. Saints Called and save According To, [Rom 8:28](#); [2Ti 1:9](#)
- I. The union of all saints in Christ, is according to, [Eph 1:9,10](#)
- J. The Works of God According To, [Eph 1:11](#)
- K. Should Be Declared by Ministers, [Act 20:27](#)
- L. Attend To, [Jer 49:20](#); [50:45](#)
- M. Secret Not to Be Searched Into, [Deu 29:29](#); [Mat 24:36](#); [Act 1:7](#)
- N. The Wicked, Understand not [Mic 4:12](#), Despise [Isa 5:19](#), Reject [Luk 7:30](#)

3. He Changes Not in Character, Will, Purpose, Aim

Mal.3.6, For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore, ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Heb 13.8, Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

[The Attributes of God - Part 1b | Precept Austin](#)

Dr S Lewis Johnson in his lecture series explains that...

As omni-presence resulted from God's immensity, because he is transcended over space, he is therefore everywhere in space, so **immortality is a natural result, a natural issue of God's eternity.**

Also, **His eternity is a natural issue of His immortality** and so these are very closely related. One of our theologians has said, "That which has no evolution and no succession is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

When the ancients wanted to illustrate immortality, they did not speak about Charlie Brown or one's wife's nagging, but they spoke about a cube, and they used a cube to illustrate God's immortality, because **a cube, no matter where you test it, will always be in the same posture because it is equal to itself in all its dimensions.** And so they thought of a cube when they thought to illustrate immortality. Immortality. Now what does it mean in connection with God?

- A. God is immutable in His essence.** Now since he is infinite in his being, we have spoken of this, he cannot change. He cannot be something that he was not before. If he were able to be something that he was not before, then we could not have said that he was infinite then. And so he is, since he is infinite in his being, he cannot change. He cannot increase. He cannot decrease. He cannot self-evolve. He cannot develop. God's essence is immutable. It is unchangeable. He cannot have any new attributes which would suggest change in his essential being. He is exalted above all becoming, if he were to become something, then he would be something he was not before. And so consequently God is immutable in his essence. He is immutable in his being. When we speak about immortality we are speaking about his being. He is immutable in his being.
- B. He is immutable in His attributes.** Now if any perfection could be separated from God, he would cease to be God. If we were, for example, to think of a God from whom his goodness were taken, then of course he would not be the infinite God that he was before. He cannot be wiser than he was before, he cannot be holier than he was before, he cannot be more righteous or more merciful than he was before, he cannot be less merciful than he was before.

Unchanging is the love of God,
From age to age the same,
Displayed to all who do His will
And reverence His Name.

If we think of an immutable God, we not only think of a person who cannot change in his essential being, but we must also think of a person who cannot change in his attributes. And so when we think of God and when we worship God and when we praise God, we do not praise

him because he is a little better today than he was yesterday. He is the same in his being and he's the same in his attributes. He has everlasting strength, he has omniscience in his wisdom, and so on at all times.

C. Furthermore, thirdly, His immutability means that He is immutable in His will. He is immutable in his plans and purposes. He does not, for example, purpose something today that he changes tomorrow. He does not change his mind. Furthermore, he does not have to sit and think now what shall I do? Shall I do this or shall I do that? Well I think today I'll try this, or I think tomorrow I will try that. Because God is infinite in his wisdom, then there is no error in the conception of his plans. All of his plans are perfect, and he does not have to reason them out. He has within himself the power to know that which is the finest plan.

I often hear theologians say God could have used several different plans, but that is not true of God. There is only one plan that is his plan, because there is one plan that represents the product of his infinite wisdom. And so he is infinite in his will. Since he is infinite in power there can be no failure in the accomplishment of his plans which fall out of his will either. So he always expresses himself or to us, but he always attempts to carry out, or carries out, the perfect plan, and he always carries it out perfectly, because he is infinitely wise and infinitely powerful. So he is immutable in his will.

D. Fourth, He is immutable in His consciousness. Since infinite experience is a fixed quantity, then nothing is added to God's consciousness and nothing old is taken from it. He is immutable in his consciousness.

E. And finally, He is unchangeable in his place. Charnock, who has written an outstanding book on the attributes of God, has said, "He cannot be changed in time because he is eternity. And he cannot be changed in place because he hath ubiquity." That is, he is everywhere present.)