



A Never- Changing God

From time-to-time I think of a word -- either a commonly-used one or, perhaps, a word that is not so well-known or understood. I like to find out what it means, not only in the dictionary, but also its application to my life.

Lately the word I've been dwelling on is constancy. It is the noun form of the word constant, and it has such wonderful application of thought and inspiration!

Constancy

Constancy means "to stand." You would never say, "I'm constancy-ing," though, because it isn't our standing on our own two feet. It reveals a deep trait of God's character that can be powerfully reflected in our lives.

The impression of constancy is much like the wide expanse of the heavens, the galaxies, the planets in their orbit, or the earth spinning on its axle that creates the four seasons of the year as well as the regular rising of the sun each day. God has created it to be so. These things happen so regularly and continually that we take them for granted. Imagine if you woke up one morning, and the earth had jumped a mile closer to the sun? Chances are you wouldn't have awakened at all because everything would have been consumed by the intense heat of the sun! If we moved even one mile away from the sun, it would cause everything to freeze. We don't have to fear other planets bumping into ours either. God placed them in their own orbits, and there they stay!

Think of what would happen if winter showed up at any time of the year it pleased, or if summer jumped in- between winter and spring! How would the farmers know when to plant their crops? What if we had no day-and-night structure? Dads wouldn't know when they should go to work; children would always have days and nights confused; and moms would have difficulty knowing when to prepare the meals for the family. Constancy is unalterable continuance and a permanent state. It is God's very nature. He tells us, "I am God. I change not." -Malachi 3:6.

Standing on the Promises

Reflected in our lives, God's nature of constancy gives us the ability to stand firm on His promises and have faith in His Word knowing that He won't change His mind or surprise us with constantly altering moods. Because of His constant nature, we can trust Him and have a firmness

of mind no matter what our opposition and our enemies are. We can have steady determination and persevering resolution as we work and serve Him throughout the daily duties of our lives.

Gaining Strength

Understanding and trusting God's constancy particularly strengthens three areas in the Christian's life:

In the Midst of Suffering

It gives us a firmness of mind as we walk through suffering. Psalm 46 says, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God... God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her..." If you are struggling through a rough time, remember that God is with His people. He will surely help us. All it would take would be a word from His mouth, and He could melt the earth if He wanted to! Be still and know that He is God. He will be exalted in your life. He is your unchanging refuge.

Encourages Perseverance in Serving the Lord

It also encourages us to persevere in whatever endeavors or enterprises God has led us into. No matter what education or degree you may or may not hold, you will always be presented with situations and aspects in life that you know nothing about! How many times I have knelt and prayed for God's wisdom and guidance in the midst of beginning a new venture or labor for Him. I have placed my entire trust in God's promise (James 5) that He loves to give us wisdom when we ask Him for it. I stake my life on that promise, and He has proven faithful! Every time I have called, He has faithfully answered.

In Building Steadfast Relationships

Lastly, it is the basis of steadiness in loving and caring for others and of building enduring relationships. God is love - steadfast, unchanging love. We can love God only because He has first loved us. Once we begin to understand and experience the greatness of His love in our lives, we can then share His love from our hearts with others. Beloved of God, never forget that God's love for you will never change. When we get mixed up and in trouble, He doesn't turn His back on us. He may have to discipline us and get us back on the right track (ouch!), but His love never changes. You can count on it.

-Holly Hageman; copyright April 2002, August 2004

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