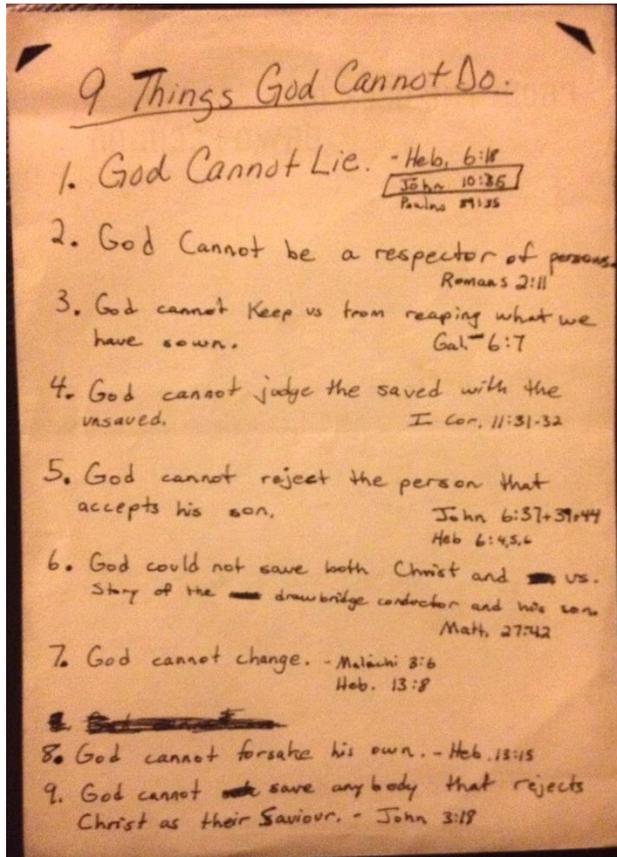


THINGS GOD CANNOT DO

(AND WHY THAT'S GOOD FOR US)

INTRODUCTION



A long time ago . . .

And I've never forgotten that sermon.

Too often, we tell people (including our kids) falsehoods about God. We pitch God to be a genie—waiting to fulfil our every wish and that is just not the case. **God** has placed boundaries on Himself—and each one of those is good for us.

At the heart of this issue is **trust**. Do we really trust God to do what He said He will do? Do we trust God to not do what He said He will not do? Both sides of this are critical. Both can either build our faith or cause us to question Him. This series will look at those things that God has said he cannot (or will not) do—and how each one of those restrictions, limitations, and boundaries is **good** for us.

He is a good God and I hope you see that come shining through as we look closely at Him and His character.

THE SCHEDULE

April 27	Introduction & God Cannot Forsake His Own	Deuteronomy 31:6, Hebrews 13:5	Fleming
May 4	God Cannot Lie	Numbers 23:19, Hebrews 6:18, Titus 1:2	Barber
May 11	God Cannot Fail & God Cannot Leave Things Unfinished	Philippians 1:6	Valovcin
May 18	God Cannot Save Without Faith	Acts 10:34-35, Hebrews 11:6	Fleming
May 25	God Cannot Change	Malachi 3:6	Fleming

KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES

Knowledge objectives help me as the teacher to go in to a study with clearly defined set of objectives.

1. To recognize the limitations that **God** places on Himself (to know facts)
2. To understand more fully God's wisdom in His own restrictions on Himself (to appreciate facts)
3. To see God's **love** evidenced in His nature (to love God more)
4. To grow in our ability to articulate God's nature to others (to improve our skills)
5. To trust God more (to be changed)
6. To be at **peace** with and love God more for who God is and who God is not (to grow like Him)

PICTORIAL UNDERSTANDING

We are not talking about God's hands being tied in any way, shape, or form that would restrict Him physically.

God is the most powerful being in the universe and all things are under His sovereignty.

In no way, shape, or form are we talking about humans placing restrictions on God's power.

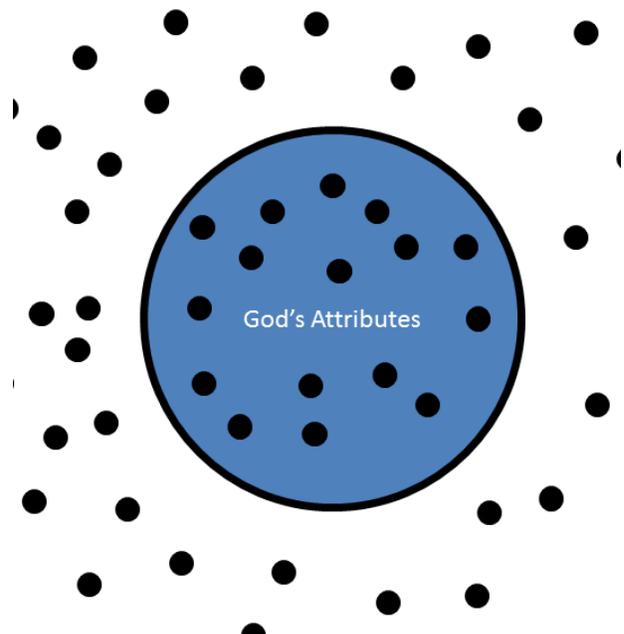
We are talking about God restricting Himself.



Image by Maxine Pixie Lennon

We are talking about God's attributes being a closed set. There are attributes of God that we know. God is spiritual, invisible, omniscient, wise, truthful, faithful, good, loving, merciful, gracious, patient, holy, peaceful, orderly, righteous, just, jealous, omnipotent, powerful, sovereign, perfect, beautiful, glorious (from Wayne Grudem).

Likewise, there are things that God is not. And by studying those things that He is not, we learn more about who He is.



THIS WEEK: GOD CANNOT FORSAKE HIS OWN

In Moses' last sermon to the nation of Israel, he told them these words in [Deuteronomy 31:6](#): **Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.**

Those words were repeated in the New Testament by the author of [Hebrews](#) in [Hebrews 13:5](#): **Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."**

Many times in our lives, we are disappointed because we deal with people. We interact with so many people that let us down. Everyone experiences this. Everyone has been abandoned at some point and everyone has abandoned someone at some point. We like to gloss over these portions of our lives, but the reality is that we fall far short from the gold standard—God.

God is the ultimate when it comes to hanging around. God just will not let us go.

David said it this way in [Psalm 139:7-10](#): **Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.** David—a man who spent a big chunk of his life on the run—could not get away from God. And it wasn't because of something that David was doing—it was because God does not abandon His children. God is the perfect father. God **never** abandons His own.

What a great restriction He places on Himself! This is a promise God has made to us—He will be there. On our best days, He is there. On our worst days, He is there. And in all the days in between, He is there. Christianity is not about having a perfect life in the midst of a broken world. Christianity is about having a perfect God to walk with through a broken world.

God will not forsake us and that is good for us. That is great for us. That is hope. That is love.

I love that **Jesus** Himself gets in on this promise as well in [John 6:39](#): **This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.** Once we are His, we are His forever. Jesus goes on about this more in [John 10:28](#): **And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.** Jesus is basically saying He will win any arm-wrestling contest. Because He is God, He cannot lose. And that is good for us. That is great for us. That is hope. That is love.

In one of the most quoted passages of all, Paul says in [Romans 8:38-39](#): **For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.** Nothing can separate us! That is good for us. That is great for us. That is hope. That is love.

This concept is not limited to just forsaking, though. Isaiah broadens this concept when he quotes God in [Isaiah 49:15](#): “Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you. Not only will he not leave us, forsake us, or abandon us, He will not **forget** us. I have a horrible memory. It’s truly spectacularly awful. It’s a big joke at my house because my wife is constantly reminding me of things that we’ve done that I’ve forgotten. But God is not that way. He never forgets us. We have a God (and a friend) who will not forget us. And that is good for us. That is great for us. That is hope. That is love.

This morning, we have an opportunity to engage with others. This morning we have an opportunity to live out these verses. We have a chance to be the hands and feet of Jesus right now. Thousands and thousands came to Coolidge Park last week and many will show up here today. Many of these folks have not been to church in a while and they are going to be nervous. They are going to wonder if that great park experience will continue today.

Many have been abandoned, forsaken, or forgotten. We have a chance to start new friendships today. We have a chance to welcome them into our family. Let us be the hands and feet of Jesus.

You might just meet your new best friends today and have a new chance to live out these verses. And that is good for us. That is great for us. That is hope. That is love.

MEMORY PASSAGE

[Deuteronomy 31:6](#): Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.

THINGS GOD *CANNOT* DO

(AND WHY THAT'S GOOD FOR US)

MEMORY PASSAGE REVIEW

Deuteronomy 31:6: Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.

INTRODUCTION

God cannot lie

The opposite is God can **only** be truthful

God is Truth

Everything God does, says, or decrees is Truth. God defines Truth.

Numbers 23:19: "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

Hebrews 6:18: that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. Because God is Truth, we have a solid hope that can be counted on.

Titus 1:2: In hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began

THIS WEEK: GOD CANNOT LIE

Can you handle the Truth?

CONCEPT OF TRUTH

Context: Ultimately, this is the only argument to have with anyone. What is Truth? If you solve this issue with someone, you have solved all issues.

Example: Remember when Jim gave us the example of looking down the table of Legos for the concept of systematic theology? The concept of Truth is in nearly every part of Scripture.

TRUTH IS THE GODHEAD

All members of the Trinity are involved. God the Father is Truth. God the Son is Truth: **John 14:6:** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through

Me. God the Holy Spirit is Truth: [John 4:24](#): God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

[John 16:13](#): However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

TRUTH IS THE GOSPEL

[John 8:32](#): And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

1 [John 1:8](#): If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

[John 8:32](#): And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

PASTORS ARE SEEN AS TEACHERS OF THE TRUTH

Throughout church history, only the church had access to the Truth, but the Reformation was the return of access to the Truth.

2 [Timothy 2:15](#): Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

The church is called to worship God in Spirit and in Truth. God is not only the source of Truth, God is Truth.

ATTACKS ON THE CONCEPT OF TRUTH:

- Truth redefined (we do not get to redefine what God said)
- All truth is God's Truth (this cannot be true because Truth divides)
- Truth interpreted by science
- It is only Truth if I can understand it (if I could understand it all, then I would be God)
- Only taking part of the Truth (we do not get to be selective with Scripture)
- New revelation is Truth
- Removing Truth (Hitler)
- Ignoring Truth (I do not want to hear it this week)

Transition: Margy, as God often uses her to do for me, reminded that although this is a topic that I have long thought of teaching on, it all comes down to, "Are you acting as Truthful as God is?"

Here is the logic:

- God is Truth
- We are created in the image of God
- We created to reflect Truth

- We are honoring, worshiping, and reflecting God when we are truthful

How are you doing on the truth meter?

APPLY (SO WHAT IS THE POINT?)

1. God is, was, and shall always be the **only** source of Truth
2. We are created in His image
3. We should be truthful in **everything** we do

Examples:

- “How long until you are home?”
- Bethany and Smarties story
- Bending the Truth
- Church by the numbers
- “Fine”

PERSONALIZE (NOW WHAT DO I DO?)

1. Believe every Word God has given you
2. Be truthful in everything you say and do
3. **Act** on the Truth

HOW CAN I BE MORE TRUTHFUL?

- Everyone has the revelation of God within them since they are created in the image of God
- You have the Holy Spirit within (a source of discretion)
- Spouse: Men, listen to your wives
- Say less, but let what you say be all Truth

Be careful not to allow your expression of something true not to be given in love.

Ephesians 4:15: but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ

Truth is not just an important doctrine, it is, “the one doctrine to rule them all.” As long as we keep up the masks, we will never get to the place of being truthful people.

[John 4](#)

MEMORY PASSAGE

Numbers 23:19: “God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”

THINGS GOD *CANNOT* DO

(AND WHY THAT'S GOOD FOR US)

MEMORY PASSAGE REVIEW

Numbers 23:19: "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

INTRODUCTION

Philippians 1:6: being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ

THIS WEEK: GOD CANNOT FAIL & GOD CANNOT LEAVE THINGS UNFINISHED

There is a lot in our lives that can make us feel unsteady or unsure as we travel the path that God has placed before us. Our faith and hope should remain always in the Father.

It's My plans for you, My path I have placed you on . . . you need to wait, slow down and come to me! You need to hang on to the truth that I cannot fail you and that I will not leave you waiting, wondering. . . I won't leave things unfinished for you. We sing, "His Love Never Fails," but it's not just his love.

Deuteronomy 4:31: (for the LORD your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them. His **mercies** never fail!

1 Chronicles 16:34: Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. His goodness never fails.

Jeremiah 10:12: He has made the earth by His power, He has established the world by His wisdom, And has stretched out the heavens at His discretion. His **power** and **might** never fail.

His forgiveness never fails. **1 John 1:9:** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Philippians 4:19: And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. His provision never fails. He will provide for His **own**.

Psalms 54:4: Behold, God is my helper; The Lord is with those who uphold my life. He alone sustains us.

Titus 1:2: in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began

Isaiah 41:10: Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.' His strength never fails.

His truth never fails. God is God and He promises to be the same today, tomorrow, and forever.

Jeremiah 29:11: For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. His plan will never fail.

Just because we don't get what we pray for doesn't mean He has failed us.

It is us that fail Him. BUT, in His perfect, unfailing way He picks us up and sets us back on our path. He loves us the same, yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Romans 8:28: And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

These verses (**Romans 8:28** and **Jeremiah 29:11**) don't promise an easy, carefree life. They don't promise a path free of stumbles and thunderstorms. What is promised is God is in control. We are promised that God has our future and that God is our hope.

Weakness is not wrong. It may be the very thing that leads us back to Him.

In my walk with God there have been times that we walked side by side, or He has led me, times I have tried to lead Him (with not good results), times that he has had to nudge me back on path and times that I have been so weak that He has carried me. Through it all, He has never failed me. Hard time, good times, laughter, tears, He is there. He will not fail me.

Philippians 1:6: being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ. Once He starts a journey in you, He will finish it.

A. W. Tozer: Just how good are God's promises? Just as good as the **character** of the One who made them.

Isaiah 41:13: For I, the LORD your God, will hold your right hand, Saying to you, 'Fear not, I will help you.' He is always there, He will not fail me.

Colossians 1:16: For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. All things were created for him. We were made by God, for God. Created for God...and God does not fail!!

Puggles story: "God saw that it was GREAT."

Philippians 2:13: for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

Story about Jacob.

Matthew 7:7: Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Gaither song: Kids under construction, maybe the paint is still wet. Kids under construction, God may not be finished yet.

1 Chronicles 28:20: And David said to his son Solomon, “Be strong and of good courage, and do it; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD God—my God—will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you, until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.

God is not weak! He will never change, never waiver, never fall short; He will never fail.

Moses was able to free his people, because God cannot fail. When God has a plan, it will not go **unfinished**. Moses’ paint was still wet.

Joshua was able to bring down the mighty walls of Jericho. God did what He promised He would. God doesn’t just slap a coat of paint on us and hope for the best. God’s got any situation I face.

Remember that our **paint** may still be **wet**. God is working on, in and through our lives.

Quote from Marlene

1 Corinthians 15:4: and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. Matthew 28:5-7: 5 But the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. 7 And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.”

Jesus rose from the dead; He conquered death. This was His plan, He did not fail or leave His plan unfinished.

APPLY (SO WHAT IS THE POINT?)

1. God has a plan and purpose for you
2. God will never give up on you. He cannot fail.

PERSONALIZE (NOW WHAT DO I DO?)

1. **Rejoice** that He never fails. Rejoice that He holds us through the hard times. Rejoice that God has placed us here for a reason.
2. Pray for strength to trust Him in all things. Strength to trust His plan, His purpose for your life.
3. Give thanks that He is still working on us. Our paint may be wet but, He will use everything we are for His glory.

MEMORY PASSAGE

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (ESV): Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

THINGS GOD **CANNOT** DO

(AND WHY THAT'S GOOD FOR US)

MEMORY PASSAGE REVIEW

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (ESV): Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

INTRODUCTION

So far in this series, we have looked at the concepts that God cannot forsake His own, God cannot lie, God cannot fail, and God cannot leave things unfinished. We serve a beautifully beautiful self-limiting God. He is above and beyond what any of us deserves.

Today, we look at the concept of God cannot save without faith. Before we dive in, a few thoughts.

God loves **everyone**.

God loves everyone **equally**.

These two thoughts frame today's lesson and if you ever start to wonder about the restrictions God places on Himself, refresh your mind with these. (You know how you sometimes have to restart a computer or clean out the memory in a browser for it to work properly? I have to do that with my brain when I study many times—go back to a known quantity and rehearse it.)

THIS WEEK: GOD CANNOT SAVE WITHOUT FAITH

Acts 10:34-35: Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him."

Ever had a day where you liked one child more than another? One neighbor? One co-worker? If you dress like this, people think you are great. If you own this car, people will like you. If you live in this neighborhood, you'll be accepted. Favoritism is everywhere.

God is the only parent who does not show favoritism. God does not play **favorites**. He does not love one more than any other.

One of my favorite concepts is illustrated by **Revelation 5:9: And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation and by Revelation 7:9: After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands.** Heaven will be filled with people from every nation, every tribe, every people, and every tongue.

But admittance is not free. Admittance is based on faith in Jesus Christ's finished work (His death, His burial, and His resurrection)—it always has been this way and it always will be this way.

ALWAYS HAS BEEN THIS WAY

Genesis 3:21: Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them. Adam and Eve did not work their way to a right relationship with God—God provided the solution for them.

Genesis 6:1-9

The Wickedness and Judgment of Man

1 Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, 2 that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they *were* beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

3 And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he *is* indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." 4 There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore *children* to them. Those *were* the mighty men who *were* of old, men of renown.

5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. 6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." 8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Noah Pleases God

9 This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

Notice the order: Noah found grace and then Noah was a just man. God did not pick Noah because Noah was good. God picked Noah because God was good. You will never see a man or woman called 'good' or 'righteous' in the Bible before he or she meets God. Noah did not impress God with his righteous works—God picked Noah and then God provided a means of physical salvation. Just as Noah had no physical means of salvation from the water that was coming, we have no way of salvation from the fire that is coming apart from Jesus Christ.

Genesis 15:1-6

1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I *am* your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

2 But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!"

4 And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." 5 Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

6 And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

We sometimes forget that the 'big players' in the Bible had periods of their lives where they did not know the Lord. Each and every one of them had to be saved as well. No one gets a free pass to heaven.

ALWAYS WILL BE THIS WAY

God never plays favorites. The standard to be His child has always been faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ—nothing more and nothing less. [John 3:16](#): For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. The only way not to [perish](#) is to have faith.

[Hebrews 11:6](#): But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

The only way to [please](#) God is through faith.

[Romans 5:1-2](#): Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

The only way to have [peace](#) with God is through faith.

There is no plan B, no alternative option, no discount code ([retailmenot.com](#)), no backdoor, and no other Gospel that will fix what ails us. We are all sinners and we all need Jesus Christ to save us from our sin and from the repercussions of our sins.

WHY THIS IS GOOD FOR US

So far, this may sound like a really negative lesson. But let us go back to our two thoughts that frame this lesson: God loves everyone and God loves everyone equally.

I can have hope for the future in that God will not change the rules about getting into heaven. If the rules changed every day, this would be awful. (Trip to Ikea and buying bags for purchased items)

Consistency breeds confidence. Confidence breeds hope. We have hope because of [faith](#).

APPLY (SO WHAT IS THE POINT?)

1. Faith has always been, is, and will always be required for salvation
2. Without faith, **hell** is the result
3. With faith, **heaven** is the result

PERSONALIZE (NOW WHAT DO I DO?)

1. Put my faith in Jesus Christ
2. Tell others about **hell**
3. Tell others about **heaven** (both are an act of love)

God loves everyone equally—all the time. And we should too—that's what Christianity is all about.

MEMORY PASSAGE

Acts 10:34-35: Then Peter opened *his* mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him."

THINGS GOD **CANNOT** DO

(AND WHY THAT'S GOOD FOR US)

MEMORY PASSAGE REVIEW

Acts 10:34-35: Then Peter opened *his* mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him."

INTRODUCTION

The last part of **Jeremiah 32:17** states: **There is nothing too hard for You** [God]. However, in this series, we are addressing the fact that there are some things God simply chooses not to begin to do. Nothing is too hard for Him to do, but there are some things He chooses never to start.

Many of us insure large portions of our lives (and even our deaths). Through these promises, God is saying, 'You don't need insurance on Me. I've got this.'

So far in this series, we have looked at the concepts that God cannot forsake His own, God cannot lie, God cannot fail, God cannot leave things unfinished, and God cannot save without faith. We serve a beautifully beautiful self-limiting God. Today, we look at the concept of God cannot change.

Today's lesson is the caulk that holds all the others together. Today's truth allows **trust** to exist.

THIS WEEK: GOD CANNOT CHANGE

THEOLOGICAL WORD OF THE DAY: IMMUTABLE

Hebrews 6:18: **that by two immutable** [not transposed, **fixed**, unalterable] **things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope** [we can lay hold of this hope because it is real] **set before us.**

Wikipedia (on God's immutability): **God is unchanging in his character, will, and covenant promises.**

Westminster Shorter Catechism: What is God? God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and **unchangeable**, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

WHAT DOES NOT CHANGE?

His **Word** (both His promises in His Word and His Word itself)

Psalm 89:34: **My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips. How often have our words waffled?** **Psalm 119:89:** **Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.**

Matthew 24:35: **Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.** There is an eternal constancy relative to His Word.

His Existence & **Rule** (if you like His government, that's great because it will not change in four years)

Psalm 102:26-27: They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will have no end. Clothes eventually wear out, but God will not wear out. **Psalm 145:13**: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And Your dominion endures throughout all generations.

His **Character**

Righteous: **Psalm 119:142**: Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And Your law is truth. He will not start being a villain. He is always the hero. (thinking of TV show flip-flops)

Wakeful: **Romans 6:9-10**: knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. He won't die again. **Psalm 121:4**: Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep. He needs no physical rest because He is all-powerful. **Isaiah 40:28**: Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He is never even tired.

Merciful & Compassionate: **Lamentations 3:22**: Through the LORD's mercies [chesed] we are not consumed, Because His compassions [racham: a mother's cherishing of a child in the womb] fail not.

Faithful: **2 Timothy 2:13**: If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself. [caulk]

Himself

James 1:17: Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation [transmutation (of phase or orbit), fickleness, variability] or shadow of turning [revolution of the heavenly bodies]. **Hebrews 13:8**: Jesus Christ is the same [literally, himself-God is not trying to be someone else] yesterday, today, and forever. **Malachi 3:6**: For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

WHY THIS IS GOOD FOR US

We are not **consumed**. If the most powerful agent in the universe changed, we would be consumed. The sheer imbalance would kill us.

APPLY (SO WHAT IS THE POINT?)

1. God is the universal **constant** (talk about the elements here)
2. God's holiness and immutability work together for good for us . . . forever

PERSONALIZE (NOW WHAT DO I DO?)

1. Enjoy the freedom that results from constancy
2. **Praise** Him for His immutability