

Our Unchanging God

Can you think of something that is directly linked to your intimacy with another person?

- Finish this sentence:
 - o In order to be close to someone you have to know them.
 - o It is a cycle, the more you know someone the closer you are to them, and the closer you get to them the better you get to know them.

Beginning in 1959 and for the next five year a 25 part series of articles was publishing in a new English magazine, *The Evangelical Magazine*. The series of articles was simply titled “God.”

In 1971 the author of these articles had finally completed his revision of them and they were published as a book. It is one of the few (possibly the only) book written in the 20th century to be regarded as a true Christian Classic. The book is *Knowing God* by J.I. Packer. This is one of the two books, I think every Christian ought to read (the other being *Pilgrims Progress*).

- By 1992 it had sold more than 1 million copies worldwide and by 2000 more than 1 million in North America alone.

Some would view the subject matter of this book as heavy or too deep, but Packer explains elsewhere his thoughts on this:

- “Spirituality [is] the whole Christian enterprise of pursuing, achieving, and cultivating communion with God, which includes both public worship and private devotion, and the results of these in actual Christian life.”
- “I have always conceived of theology...as truth for people, and have never felt free to leave unapplied any truth that I taught...To speak of the application of truth to life is to look at life as itself a relationship to God.”

With that said, this series of workshop lessons is using Packer’s *Knowing God* as a starting place for our study.

In this series we are going to look at three characteristics of God and one characteristic of God’s relationship to us, drawing from these applications to our life and walk with God.

It is true that in a relationship you can only grow closer to the other the more you get to know the other. One thing that makes that difficult in a human relationship is the person you are trying to get to know and grow closer to keeps changing!

This is not true of God.

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I. God's life does not change.

- Psalm 90:2
- Psalm 93:2
- Psalm 102:26,27
- Isaiah 48:12
- Jeremiah 10:10
- Romans 1:23
- 1 Timothy 6:16

II. God's character does not change.

- Exodus 34:5-7
- Exodus 3:14,15
- James 1:17

III. God's truth does not change.

- Isaiah 40:6-8
- Psalm 119:89,151-152
- John 10:35

IV. God's purposes do not change.

- Numbers 23:19
- 1 Samuel 15:29
- Psalm 33:11