

Monday - Exodus 34:1-7

God doesn't change! Sure, there are times where we wish God would bend the rules for us. But the truth of God's unchanging character and nature should bring us such comfort. Moses and the Israelites deserved judgment. The Israelites worshiped a golden calf and Moses trashed God's handwritten Ten Commandments. If ever there was a time when God should change God's mind and tire of a people, this would be it. Yet in this passage God reminds Moses of his unchanging nature, his unfailing love, and his unending mercy. I'm so glad God doesn't change his mind about me when I deserve his grace the least. How can you take comfort and joy in God's unchanging character today?.

Pray: LORD of Heaven and Earth, thank you for your grace that knows no end because your love and mercy never changes!

Tuesday - Malachi 3:6-18

Its such a good thing that God doesn't change! God reiterates his unchanging nature, reminding the people that they would have already been destroyed. There is another blessing to God's unchanging nature, we know how to please God. God's desires don't change either. The righteous "remember" what pleases God. They repent for their wrong. And they recommit to the righteousness God has always desired. God's laws are not always changing or confusing. We just have to be willing.

Pray: Almighty God, we know what we should be doing. Thank you for your forgiveness and continual offer to remember, repent, and recommit.

Wednesday - James 1:12-18

Life can get hard! Temptations and trials come our way. Here, James reminds us that God never changes. God is not a shifting shadow. We know how to avoid sin and death. We know how to please him. And even better, we know we are secure as God's prized possession and the recipients of all that is good and perfect. God will secure and protect us as we rest in his unchanging love and his unrelenting holiness. The solution to temptation is security in our rock, our unchanging God!

Pray: Merciful Father, thank you that when temptations come my way, I can find security and strength as I stand firm in you!

Thursday - Numbers 23:18-26

Balaam is a prophet for hire...a mercenary for those who wish to use the gods to get their own way. Balak is a king wanting God to curse the Israelites and stop their progress. You can read their entire fascinating story in Numbers 22-24. In our brief passage for today we hit the core of this story and the challenge we all face. We can't use God. God is not like a person. God won't be bribed. God won't lie. God won't fail. God is unchanging, faithful, and true to God's promises. For those who want their own way, like Balak, this is bad news. For those of us who want to trust and rest secure in the promises of God, this is good, good news!

Pray: Eternal and unchanging God, thank you for your faithfulness to you promises. In Christ we can know and rest secure that we are saved.

Friday - 2 Chronicles 7:11-16

What do we do when we feel like our lives and circumstances are out of control and the world is against us? The LORD reminds Solomon that the pathway to God and to change is always open. God's ears are always attune to those who honestly seek him. God doesn't change. We change. We humble ourselves. We seek God's way. The good news is that God never changes, but we can. God's grace never ends, but we can open ourselves to receive more. Repentance is always open, if we humble ourselves to change. Are you trying to change God through your prayers, or are you seeking to let God change you?

Pray: Holy Spirit, remind me today that the goal of prayer is not to change God, but to let God change me.

Saturday - Hebrews 12:1-7

Its tough to trudge through the mud. Trekking through deep snow is equally hard. Faithfulness while entangled by sin, selfishness, or bitterness is impossible. Whereas we can't change the weather, the writer of Hebrews reminds us that we can let go of the things that hold us back from running free in faith with Jesus. Are there things holding back your run with Jesus? What could you let go of, or what behavior could you change that might let your run with freedom and endurance?

Pray: Jesus, my LORD and Savior, thank you for your faithful example and love. Help me let go of what holds me back and help me run with you.

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Today’s Scripture

Hebrews 10:23-25 (NLT)

Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

John 15:16a (NLT)

You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit...

Matthew 28:18-20 (NLT)

Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Proverbs 27:17 (NLT)

As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.

John 13:34-35 (NLT)

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

Acts 2:42-47 (NLT)

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity– all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.



Week 9
Presence

The purpose of being present
is to prepare us to serve them.

Write down what you hear God saying to you:

We aren’t spiritual customers, we are kingdom co-workers
Our commitment to the mission determines our standard for the team.
Our love for our teammates elevates our effectiveness as a team.

Further Conversation

1. Have you ever been part of a successful team? What did you do? What are some key practices that made the team successful?
2. *Read Hebrews 10:23-25* Why does the writer of Hebrews say we should be present with one another?
3. *Read John 15:16* How does a consumer mentality destroy a team?
4. *Read Matthew 28:18-20* What is our purpose and mission? What happens when a team forgets what its purpose is?
5. *Read Proverbs 27:17* How is iron sharpened? How is loving confrontation healthy for members of a team?
6. *Read John 13:34-35* What shows the world we belong to Jesus? How can a team’s love for each other make it more effective?
7. *Read Acts 2:42-47* In what ways was the early church present with one another? What were the benefits of their presence for each other? What impact did it have on their purpose and mission?

This Week’s Prayer Partner

God works in so many ways in our community and across the globe. Every month, Tabernacle commits to pray for our ministry partners. Please consider sending a note, a donation, or joining their team.

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Live Generously

Generosity is a step of faith. If you are visiting, we welcome you and hope you enjoy your experience. If you call Tabernacle your church home, we encourage you to support the ministry with your tithes & gifts. Offering baskets are placed at each entrance door during our 9AM Service. Offering plates are passed at our 11AM Service. You can also give online with this **QR code**.

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