

The Unchanging God

A Reflection

I enjoy looking at family photos. It's fun seeing all the younger faces, marveling at how cute our kids were when they were little, remembering my parents when they were young and strong. In those photos I watch as each of us travels through the cycle of life.

It makes me think about the passage of time and all the inevitable changes. God has been with us. In fact, I sometimes look and imagine God being in each of those pictures.

God looks the same in every photograph. We all change drastically. He doesn't change. He's in the picture of my dad, a young man heading into World War II. He is in those photos of our growing young family. And there He is in our newest group portrait.

We usually think of God as being old and wise, looking like a grandfather, with white hair and a long beard. But remember, God has never aged. Picture Him as 22, young and strong, and you're just as near the truth.

Read the creation story, and you see a God who is energetic and enthusiastic, like a proud parent preparing for the arrival of a new baby. He's excited! Everything has to be perfect!

God enjoys blessing His people. He does it with a smile on His face and a bounce in His step.

His energy and enthusiasm haven't waned one bit. He's the same as when He called Abraham out of his homeland, or when He showed himself to Jacob, young and desperate, running from his own foolishness. He's the same as when He energized the boy David to go after a fierce giant with a slingshot, and when He called a fearful shepherd to lead an entire nation out of slavery. "Take off your shoes, Moses. You're standing on holy ground."

That's the same God that inhabits our photos. He's in each of our family pictures.

I look at those pictures, and I think about our family. I think about our kids, now responsible adults, making us so proud. I think about our grandchildren. It won't be long before they have families of their own. I think about my parents and how quickly they aged, and how rapidly my wife and I are traveling that same path. Our photos will look different in future years. Some new members will be added. Some precious members will be missing. And those still there will gradually look so very different.

But God will be the same in every picture. If we could see the pictures of our great-grandchildren and their families, we'd see the same, young, energetic God, still just as enthusiastic about blessing His people, still as intent on faithfully leading them to Himself.

*I will sing of the Lord's great love forever;
with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.
I will declare that your love stands firm forever,
that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself. (Psalm 89:1-2, NIV)*

*Lord, you have been our dwelling place
throughout all generations.
Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God. (Psalm 90:1-2, NIV)*

That is the God who is with us and with all those we love, today and every day, through all generations. His faithful love gives us a security that change, age, and death can never touch.

Hymn: [You Are the Same](#)

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