



**COMMUNITY
GROUPS**
Be known and grow



21 April 2024 | Unchanging Father | ABBA

“This is what the Lord says: ‘Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the Lord. That person will be like a bush in the wastelands; they will not see prosperity when it comes. They will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives.

‘But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream.

It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.’

Jeremiah 17:5-8 (NIVUK)

Making a start

“Everybody believes in something, and everybody, by virtue of the fact that they believe in something, uses that something to support their own existence.” Frank Zappa.

What is your response to the above statement?

1. “I believe in anything that has been proven by evidence. Otherwise known as non-supernatural” – Surely, we still believe in friendship, love, and helping others? That is faith.
2. “I believe in science, and that requires no faith whatsoever.” - But that is still faith in the ability of man to do science.

Keeping it real:

1. “God is unchanging in his being, perfections, purposes, and promises, yet God does act and feel emotions, and he acts and feels differently in response to different situations.” Wayne Grudem’s notes in Systematic Theology
2. Read: Psalm 119:89-90; Psalm 90:1-2; Exodus 3:14; Psalm 102:25-27
 - a. What a beautiful comfort knowing God doesn’t change. The theological term for this is his immutability. While we see in different portions of Scripture that

he responds differently in different situations, his essence and nature do not change.

- b. Our faith is in an unchanging God; everything may change, but He remains the same. Therefore, we can relate to Him through Scripture, even if it is written at different times to different people. Through Scripture, we relate to an unchanging God, not merely a changing world.
3. Read Jeremiah 17:5-8 again: The deeper your roots are in God, being nourished by His stream of life, the more you will be able to stand the storms of life.

Living it out

1. Don't let anyone look down on you because you are a person of faith. What you believe is reasonable, what you believe can be trusted and is consistent and speaks to life.
2. Keep your faith in the unchanging Father, the consistent Father, the Father that declared His banner over you is love. His banner will not change because He does not change. He IS love.
3. How can you respond to His love in faith?
4. How can you send your roots deeper into His river of life (Revelation 22:1)

Prayer

1. Take a moment to become quiet before the Lord. Confess your faith anew in the Lord.
2. Thank Him for being consistent and that His love for you will never change.
3. Ask the Lord to show you in what areas of your life you can grow deeper roots into His streams of life.