

## Unchangeable / Permanent

(ἀπαράβατον = 'haparathaton')

*Unchangeable, permanent, immutable, invariable, changeless, immoveable, fixed, irreversible, not to be violated, inviolable, unalterable, not liable to pass to a successor.*

**Hebrews 7:24-25, "But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable (permanent) priesthood. Therefore, He is also able (and willing) to save (deliver from the bondage of sin) to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."** As Jesus [our High Priest] has an *unchangeable ministry*, so does every child of God. Why? Because we have the same Spirit as Jesus, operating the very same gifts, and with the same mission on earth (*to profit all*). The Holy Spirit is our '*anchor man*' and although there are diversities (allotments) of gifts, it is "***the same Spirit***" operating them (**1 Corinthians 12:4**).

Everything the Holy Spirit does is fresh, but He always manifests Himself within the confines of divine order. He does not change Himself to suite others, for He is always the same precious Holy Spirit - the *same* Spirit of Christ! Therefore, to be unchangeable is to be led by the Holy Spirit. His Spirit in us acts as a spiritual stabiliser and is a supernatural transformer [constantly changing us into the image and likeness of Christ]. Here is another paradox.... '*to be changing into the image of Christ [through the Power that is continually at work in us], causes us to be consistent, steadfast and unchangeable - with less and less fluctuation when dealing with the matters of life*'. **2 Corinthians 3:18** says, "***But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same (unchangeable) image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.***"

## Understand

(συνιέντος = 'sinhintos')

*To understand, to comprehend or assimilate, to have insight, to grasp, to set or bring together the thing perceived, to set or join together in the mind.*

**Matthew 13:19, "When anyone hears (has knowledge of) the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes immediately and snatches away what was sown in the heart."** Literally, "*If anyone of you has knowledge of the Word of God, and then chooses not to respond to that truth (act on it), the devil will come immediately to snatch away the seed that was sown in the heart.*" Notice, the devil will gladly co-operate with any person who is not willing to **act** on the truth. In the Parable of the Sower, we see clearly that it is very important to "receive," and then to hear and understand the Word. Verse 23, "***But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces; some a hundred-fold, some sixty, some thirty.***" There's a distinct relationship between receiving, hearing (having knowledge) and understanding (taking action).

So what is the difference between hearing (having knowledge), and understanding? Knowledge is passive and understanding is active! Faith will only come to you when you've acquired knowledge of what God has spoken concerning your situation and have 'acted upon it'. Jesus said, "***It is he who receives the word and who has knowledge and also understands it (also acts upon it); who bears fruit and produces.***" The Word of God is powerful enough to penetrate any soil. But "receiving" the word is having both knowledge of the word and understanding it. And as a result, the word "received" bears fruit and produces a multiplication - some a hundred-fold, some sixty and some thirty.

*Understanding* is literally a "thinking through". The word suggests *insight, meditation, reflection, perception and the gift of apprehension*. When this faculty is renewed by the Holy Spirit the whole mind-set changes and a person becomes positive in thought and action. There is a quickening of the mind and body "to do" - to be active! To be a "doer" of God's Word.