

The I AMs of Jesus

Our study on the I AMs of Jesus is a compilation of articles that were first presented on our website <http://about-him.com> .

There we have about 11 years worth of devotional Bible studies on a variety of subjects. These are indexed at <http://about-him.com/devotionlink.html>

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The Name of Jesus

2 The Name of Jesus

In Acts 3:12-26 we read the stirring account of Peter and John as they encountered a lame man who was begging at the gate to the temple. We will recall the words of Peter:

Acts 3:6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

After the man was dramatically healed, Peter used the opportunity to preach (Acts 3:12-26) to the assembled crowd. Peter preached with a fiery zeal and let these people know that they had killed the Prince of Life, but God had raised Him from the dead. He emphasized that the man had not been healed because of Peter's power or holiness. He was healed by the Name of Jesus and faith in the Name of Jesus.

It is interesting to note that when the apostles preached the Name of Jesus, it was usually coupled to the resurrection. I believe that the Name and the resurrection are inseparable. The Name of Jesus denotes all that God has been, all that He is, and all that He will become.

The Sadducees who ruled the temple, but were more political than devoted, got stirred up when they heard that Peter and John were preaching not only the resurrection of Jesus, but also the resurrection of all who believe in Jesus (Acts 4:1). They tried to put a stop to this excitement by casting Peter and John in jail. They were just a little bit too late. Five thousand men had become believers and confessed Christ.

The next day, Peter and John were called before the High Priest and a host of assembled dignitaries to be examined. The opening question was, "By what power or by what name have ye done this?" Peter began to preach again that the man was healed by the power of the Name of Jesus and that there was no hope of salvation outside of that Name (Acts 4:12).

Peter preached five different times in the book of Acts:

At Pentecost - Acts 2:14-39

To the crowd when the lame man was healed - Acts 3:12-26

To the rulers after the lame man was healed - Acts 4:8-12

To the council after being imprisoned - Acts 5:29-32

To the household of Cornelius - Acts 10:36-48

3 *The Name of Jesus*

The five themes Peter preached are:

God anointed Jesus!

You killed Him!

God raised Him up!

He reigns in heaven!

He is coming again!

The church today would do well to stick to these basic themes and speak less of our so called sovereign rights to prestige and power. When we get a vision of the enthroned Christ, we will speak much more of Him and less of ourselves.

Peter preached under the anointing of the Holy Ghost. Even though their preaching had made the rulers angry, they grudgingly acknowledged that these unlearned men had been with Jesus. They threatened and commanded them to no longer speak in the Name of Jesus. Peter simply answered that they could only speak the things they had seen and heard. They had walked with Jesus for three and one half years and had seen much. However, it was after the resurrection that their understanding was opened. Remember the two men walking with Jesus on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:45) and how Jesus opened their understanding that they might understand the scriptures. He showed Himself to them in the law, the psalms and the prophets. Acts 1:3 speaks of Jesus speaking of things pertaining to the kingdom of God for forty days. No wonder Peter couldn't keep still. He had just had a very intensive spiritual seminar with the risen and glorified Christ.

After Peter and John were released, they reported all that had happened to the church body. They were fearful but they began to pray aloud in unison (Acts 4:24). They asked the Lord to note that the political establishment was arrayed against the Lord and His Christ. They asked the Lord to note their threatenings.

They also specifically asked for boldness to preach God's Word, and that signs and wonders be done in the Name of the very One whom the political establishment had tried to wipe out. God heard their prayer and gave a very dramatic answer. The very foundations of the building began to shake and those assembled were filled anew with the Holy Ghost. Once more they began to preach and witness with boldness.

4 The Name Above Every Name

How do we apply these two chapters. I believe that we must make every effort to discern the significance of the Name of the Lord. We must seek God for greater faith in His Name. We must join together seeking God for a revival, where signs and wonders are done as a result of the preaching of the Name.

The Name Above Every Name

*Philippians 2:9 NKJV - Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,
10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,
11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

How precious is the name of Jesus, bestowed on Him by His Father, because of His voluntary submission to death on the cross of Calvary (Isa. 53:12; Lu. 24:26; Heb. 2:10). Note that Jesus was given "The Name" that is above every name, i.e., the eternal, unique name of God Almighty.

When the Lord appeared to Moses in the burning bush, He commanded Moses to go to the children of Israel and tell them that he had been visited by the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and anointed of Him to effect their deliverance. Moses told the Lord that they would want to know the name of this God of the fathers, and asked, "What shall I say unto them"? God answered in Ex. 3:14, "I AM THAT I AM". I AM is the imperfect tense of the verb "to be". The imperfect tense is one which expresses an incomplete or continuing action. Here God is saying, "I Am self-existent, and I will become what I will become". In verse 13 God identifies Himself as the LORD God of your fathers, and states that Jehovah would be His name forever, and His memorial to all generations. When the word "LORD" appears in the King James translation of the Old Testament, using four capital letters, it is a substitution for the name JEHOVAH.

We are told by language experts that "I AM" and "Jehovah", are both forms of the verb "to be". "I AM" is the first person form, and "Jehovah" is the third person form of the same verb. By using the name I Am, God is declaring that "I am self-existent, I Am what I am and I will become what I will become."

Jesus emphasizes this fact in Revelation 1:8, where He said, "I AM Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."

5 *The Name Above Every Name*

As God progressively revealed Himself to His people, it was by different applications of the everlasting name Jehovah. When Abraham told Isaac that the LORD would provide Himself a lamb, it was Jehovah-jireh (Gen. 22:14-15 The Lord will provide). When Israel needed victory it was Jehovah-nissi (Ex. 17:15 The LORD our banner). When the Lord demanded holiness it was Jehovah-m'kaddesh (Ex. 31:13 The LORD that sanctifies). There are other compound names of Jehovah that denote His presence, attributes, and activity. As God progressively revealed Himself to His people, He did so through His name. The culmination of this was when the LORD JEHOVAH became my Savior (Isa. 12:2) They called His name JESUS (Lu 1:21), which is the Greek translation of the Hebrew name "JEHOSHUA", which means "JEHOVAH IS BECOME MY SALVATION".

Isaiah 12:2 Behold, God [is] my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH [is] my strength and [my] song; he also is become my salvation.

Ephesians 1:10 That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; [even] in him:

Throughout His ministry, Jesus boldly used the name I AM, applying the very eternal name of God unto Himself. This did not go unnoticed or unchallenged. When Jesus proclaimed that before Abraham was, I AM (Jn. 8:59), the Pharisees tried to kill Him by stoning. They tried again in John 10:33 and explained it was because, "That thou, being a man, makest thyself God." When soldiers came to arrest Him and asked for Jesus, Jesus replied, I Am He," and the soldiers fell to the ground at the mention of the sacred name (Jn. 18:6).

Jesus told the woman at the well that He was the Messiah by saying, "I AM He."

In John 6:35 He said, " I AM the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

In John 8:23, Jesus said, "I AM from above."

In John 8:58 Jesus proclaimed that He was Eternal God by stating, "Before Abraham was, I AM.."

In John 9:5 Jesus said, "I AM the light of the world."

6 *The Name Above Every Name*

In John 10:11 Jesus said, "I AM the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."

In John 11:25 Jesus said, "I AM the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

In John 13:13 Jesus told his disciples that I Am your Lord and Master.

In John 14:6 Jesus said, "I Am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

In John 15:1 Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman."

In Revelation 1:8, Jesus said, "I AM Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."

In Revelation 1:17 Jesus said, "... Fear not; I AM the first and the last."

The name JESUS contains all that God has ever been, all that He is, and all that He will be. This name contains and denotes all the character and attributes of God. This is the name of the Lord God who will sit upon the throne of David (Ps. 132:11). This is the name in Whom all things in heaven and earth are to be gathered together in one (Eph. 1:10). This is the name far above all principality and power, and every name that is named not only in this world, but also in that which is to come (Eph. 1:21). This is the name of Jehovah that we are told to call on and make mention that His name is exalted. (Isa. 12:4). This is the highly exalted name to whom we all are going to bow and confess, that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father (Phil. 2:9-11), the everlasting Father, whom Isaiah said would be a Son born, and a child given, Immanuel, God with us (Isa. 9:6, 7:14). This is the name in whom we believe to obtain life (Jn. 20:31). This is the name in whom we have repentance and remission of sin (Luke 24:47, Acts 2:38). It was by His name through faith in His name that the lame man was healed at the gate of the temple (Acts 4:10). It is this name and this name only, that was given that we might obtain salvation (Acts 4:12).

The Psalmist likened the name of the Lord to a strong tower into which the righteous flee for safety. In biblical times towers were built in open land as fortresses to guard against marauders, much as castles were used in medieval times. Romans 6:3 speaks of being baptized INTO Christ. Galatians 3:27 says that as many as have been baptized INTO Christ have put on Christ.

7 *I AM, the Bread of Life*

2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us that if any man be IN Christ he is a new creature. How do I run into this strong tower of the name of the Lord except by calling upon His name? Peter in Acts 2:21 told the assembled crowd that whosoever would call on the name of the Lord would be saved. They asked Peter "What shall we do"? They were in effect saying "How do we call upon the name of the Lord?" Peter answered in Acts 2:38 that they must repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins, making them worthy candidates to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

When we run into this tower of the name of Jesus, we find the power of God, for Jesus claimed all power of heaven and earth (Matt. 28:18). We find all the authority of God, for Jesus said that whatever we ask in His name, He would do it (Jn. 14:14). We find all the attributes and character of God for Jesus is both the power and the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24). If I desire wisdom, righteousness, holiness, power, love, mercy, understanding, knowledge, or any of the many attributes of God, I must find them in Jesus.

When I enter this tower of the name of Jesus, I have need of nothing else, for Colossians 2:12 tells me that in him dwells all the fullness of the godhead (deity) bodily, and that I am complete in him! If I desire to be a perfect man, I can obtain perfection according to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Eph. 4:13). All that I can learn of God is in Christ Jesus, who is the express image of the invisible God (Col. 1:15), and the very brightness of His substance (Heb. 1:3). What a day that will be when we all gather at the throne of God and joyfully pay homage to the One who bears the name above every name, the Lord Jesus Christ. In the meantime, Almighty God is just as close as His name, the precious name of Jesus.

I AM, the Bread of Life

In John 6:35 Jesus appropriated the unmentionable name of God unto Himself and declared: "I AM the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. "

In John 6, Jesus had a running discourse with His antagonists. Some had actually witnessed Jesus feeding a crowd of four thousand men plus women and children, but they were not in the least impressed (Jn. 6:26). I'm sure that word had also reached them of Jesus walking on a raging sea and then calming the storm with a simple word. Still they would not believe! They discounted the miracle of feeding the four thousand by referring to the manna that their fathers had eaten in the wilderness and attributing it's source to Moses, rather than to God.

They basically said, "Hey, Moses fed two million of us in the wilderness and you only fed four thousand." Why don't you show us a sign that tops Moses and then we will believe on You.

Jesus let them know it was His Father who supplied the natural bread in the wilderness. It only sustained life for a while. Their fathers all died in the wilderness. However His Father was now offering the spiritual bread of heaven for their eternal salvation, but they would not believe.

Are men any different today? I don't think so. More to the point: Am I ever like that? This world is reeling in despair and facing global meltdown, yet many belittle the free gift of salvation that Jesus purchased for all. He purchased our salvation with the true bread of heaven which was His shed blood and broken body. Many today, even Christians, misapply the gifts of daily bread as being only for their daily physical sustenance. But how blessed it is to recognize the Lord Jesus for Who He is and avail ourselves of all His heavenly provision. Yes, He has and still does supply my daily physical bread, but how much more blessed is it to feast on the bread of heaven.

John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

Job 23:12 Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary [food].

John 6:68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

Psalms 119:103 ¶ How sweet are thy words unto my taste! [yea, sweeter] than honey to my mouth!

Psalms 19:10 More to be desired [are they] than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Jeremiah 15:16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

We don't know what is coming upon this world. Many have exhausted their savings and lost their homes and jobs. Our monetary system is on the brink of collapse. We could wake up in the morning and find that our almighty dollar isn't worth the paper that it's printed on.

Presidents and politicians of all stripes have proven that they don't have the answer and are not inclined to look to heaven to find it.

Regardless of conditions, we can rejoice because Jesus has all the answers. He has promised to never leave or forsake us, even until the end of the world (Mt. 28:20). Our spiritual hunger and thirst is continually satisfied as we walk and talk with Him. We have an assurance that we will be kept and nurtured by the One who fed the multitude and calmed the angry sea. He came down from heaven and offered Himself in death that all who receive Him might live and commune with Him, both now and eternally.

I AM, the Light of the World

Genesis 1:3 ¶ And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

In the very first act of creation, God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 1 John 1:5 tells us that light is an essential part of God's being. I believe that when God said, "Let there be light," that He was simply extending Himself into His creation. Lest I sound like a new ager, consider that light was created on the first day. Herbs and fruits reproduced on the third day without benefit of the sun, which did not appear until the fourth day.

We know that plants cannot grow without light, so how did the fruits and seeds reproduce on the third day, without aid from the sun? Obviously because the glory of eternal God was shining directly over His creation. We will see this at the end of the age after that the sun and moon have failed.

Revelation 21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb [is] the light thereof.

God is a being of intense light and the glorified Jesus dwells in that light to which no man can approach (1 Ti 6:16). Paul was blinded by His light on the road to Damascus (Ac.9:3, 22:6). In Revelation 1:16, John described His countenance as the sun shining in its strength (Rev. 1:16). After Moses communed with God on Sinai, he had to put a veil on his face, because his countenance was too bright for anyone to look on him (Ex. 34:33-35).

1 Timothy 6:16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom [be] honour and power everlasting. Amen.

Before God called for light, the world was in total and absolute darkness. We'll never see that degree of darkness, unless we miss heaven. Something to think about! Darkness is simply the absence of light.

It cannot be created. It only becomes apparent when light is removed. Other aspects of light is that it only shines in a straight line, just like our God! A beam of light can be used to convey information such as when God's word illuminates our pathway (Ps. 119:107).

Light always generates heat and heat generates fire, such as the fire that is an integral part of the baptism of the Holy Ghost (Mt. 3:11).

1John 1:5 ¶ This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

The light of God penetrates the hidden recesses of our hearts, revealing everything that is not pleasing to God. I recall a story told by the late Ruth Graham: The TV people were coming to their house to do an interview. Naturally they cleaned the house from top to bottom. All looked well, as far as they could see, that is until the TV technicians turned on their super bright lights. Every speck of dust in the house became noticeably visible. So it is when God's light penetrates our hearts. The brighter the light, the more dirt shows up.

John 3:21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

Three times in the book of John, Jesus appropriates the unutterable name of Jehovah unto Himself declaring, "I AM the light of the world (Jn. 8:12, 9:5, 12:46), thus declaring Himself to be God Almighty, the Creator of light. Those who opposed Him knew exactly what He was saying (Jn. 10:33; Col. 1:15-17).

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John began His gospel by recalling that Jesus was the Creator who had been manifested in the flesh for our redemption (Jn. 1:1,3,14). He stated that Jesus possessed "life" and that this life (Deity) was the light of men. His light appears to every person who enters this world and those who believe on Him will be saved (Jn. 1:4,7,9).

Have you ever turned over a rock and watched the bugs scurry away, looking for some dark recess where the sunlight cannot penetrate? That is exactly how we were, before we believed and obeyed the gospel.

11 *I AM, the Light of the World*

The kingdom of Satan and everything of this world is in darkness as opposed to the kingdom of God which is a kingdom of light.

2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.

21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

However, the light of God shined into our hearts and gave us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to [give] the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Things are different now. The things that we once loved, we now hate and the things that we once hated, we now love. We have been introduced to the Savior of the world who gave us redemption through His blood, and the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace (Eph. 1:7). He gave us an eternal inheritance and sealed us with His Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:11,13). Because we responded to the light of God, He has made us a fit place for His Spirit to live (Eph. 2:22). What a privilege this is! The light of God has shown us that in Jesus we have all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Col. 2:3).

John 8:12 ¶ Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 12:35 Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

John 12:46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

Having received the Light of God's Spirit, We have a responsibility to those around us who are dwelling in darkness. We must let our lights be shining at all times, for all to see, that they also may respond to the life changing gospel of Jesus Christ.

12 *I AM, the Good Shepherd*

Matthew 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

I AM the Good Shepherd

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

In using the sacred unutterable name of God in reference to Himself, Jesus had the rapt attention of His antagonistic audience. In proclaiming Himself as The Good Shepherd, they understood that He was equating Himself with the Shepherd of Psalms 23, who of course was the Lord God Almighty (Rev. 1:8).

In Luke 15, Jesus described the duties of a shepherd. It was the shepherd's job to take the sheep to pasture in the morning and furnish them water. He guarded against wild beast (I Sam. 17:34) and kept the sheep from straying. At night he returned the sheep to a common sheepfold which contained the flocks of other shepherds. The shepherd counted them to see that none were missing. If one were missing, it was the shepherd's job to find and return the sheep to the fold, where the rest of the flock was safely bedded down, safe from the perils of the night.

In the morning the shepherd, would gather his sheep by calling to them. His sheep recognized his voice and gathered around him. The sheep of the other flocks were listening for the voice of their own shepherd and ignored him.

Luke 15:4 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

Jesus asked his listeners, "What do you do if you have a hundred sheep and one of them wanders away? Is there one of you that will not leave the ninety nine other sheep and go search in the wilderness for the lost one? Do you not lift this shivering lamb and hold him close to your body to give him warmth? When you see your friends, do you not say to them, 'Rejoice with me, I found my lost sheep, he's back safely in the fold now.' Of course you do."

13 *I AM, the Good Shepherd*

Aren't you thankful for Jesus the Good Shepherd? A great painting comes to mind of the Good Shepherd reaching down to the lamb who has been stranding on the side of a steep mountain. Another painting depicts the Gentle Shepherd cradling a little lamb in His protective arms. I think we can identify with both.

Isaiah 40 is a great prophetic chapter which tells of Jesus appearing as Israel's God who would gather them together as a shepherd does for his sheep. (See: Behold Your God!)

Isaiah 40:11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry [them] in his bosom, [and] shall gently lead those that are with young.

Do we remember where we were when Jesus found us?

1Peter 2:25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

All of us have strayed at one time or another (Ps. 119:176; Isa. 53:6). The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence. Perhaps we wanted a bit of excitement or we wanted to gratify our carnal lust. The Shepherd didn't berate the sheep when He found Him. No, He lifted him up and gave him warmth and shelter from the elements as He joyfully carried him back to the fold.

We have another picture of The Good Shepherd in Psalms 23. The shepherd led his sheep by walking before and leading them. They ordinarily followed him; he didn't have to drive them. He led them to green pastures where there was plenty of water, typified as the paths of righteousness. However, there were times when it was necessary to walk through the valley of the shadow of death. The sheep looked to the protection of the shepherd who used his rod and staff to protect the sheep.

Jesus said that He was the Good Shepherd, who was the door to the sheepfold. His sheep knew His voice and would not follow another. We today hear many voices that would cause us to become self-centered and to forsake self denial and discipleship. We ignore them because we know that it is not Jesus our Shepherd speaking. We also have many godly teachers who hold true to God's word and who tell us, "This is the way, walk ye in it" (Isa. 30:21).

14 I AM, the Resurrection and the Life

The Good Shepherd was prepared to lay down His life for the sheep, which Jesus freely did for us. The apostle Peter called Jesus the Chief Shepherd and Bishop of your soul (I Peter 2:25).

John 10:14 I am the good shepherd, and know my [sheep], and am known of mine.

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

Jesus had compassion on the multitudes who were scattered and fainting because they had no shepherd. Aren't we thankful that He had compassion on us when He saved us and continues to have compassion on us (Heb. 5:2) when we falter? We also have compassion of the multitudes around us who have no Shepherd.

Matthew 9:36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

Ezekiel 34:11 For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, [even] I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out.

12 As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep [that are] scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day.

Friend, are you away from the Shepherd's fold and struggling against the elements of this world. Do you hear the howls of the roaring lion (I Pet. 5:8) who seeks to devour you? Do you hear the voice of the Master who is seeking your return to the fold? Simply call out to Him. He will hear your faintest cry and bear you up in His arms with love and compassion and return you safely to His fold.

I AM the Resurrection and the Life

In John 11, we have the moving story of the resurrection of Lazarus, who with his sisters Mary and Martha were friends of Jesus. After hearing the news, Jesus waited two days to make the journey from beyond Jordan to Bethany. When he arrived, Lazarus had been dead for four days and as Martha pointed out, "By this time, he stinks." I believe that the delay was so that there could be no disputing that Lazarus was truly dead, thus giving God the glory for his resurrection. As Martha talked with Jesus, He told her that her brother would rise again. She didn't realize that Jesus meant that your brother will arise "now," but she affirmed that she knew he would rise again in the last day.

Text: *John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:*

We hear this text quite often at funerals and rightly so. However, the text also applies to our being regenerated when we believe on Jesus.

The key to it all is believing on Him. First of all we must believe Who He is. He is the great I Am who spoke to Moses from the fiery bush. He is the eternal self existent God, the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the beginning and the ending, who Is and Is To Come, the Almighty. Some people only recognize His humanity but if we think Him to be anything less than that stated in Rev. 1:8, we are sadly missing the mark.

Revelation 1:8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

John 8:24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am [he], ye shall die in your sins.

Isaiah 43:10 Ye [are] my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I [am] he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. {no...: or, nothing formed of God}

Text *John 11:27 She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.*

Once again, Jesus claimed the eternal unutterable name of God, I AM. It is to Martha's credit that she, unlike the religionists of that day, understood and believed what He was saying. She replied, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who should come into the world." In other words, "I believe you when you say that you are the eternal Lord God Jehovah who has condescended in flesh to purchase my salvation." In other instances, religious men rejected the claims of Jesus and Jesus told them that by doing so, they would die in their sins.

John 8:24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am [he], ye shall die in your sins.

Everything hinges on being a believer. We must believe everything that is recorded of Jesus (Jn. 20:31) and every word that He has said. His words are settled in heaven (Ps. 119:89), they are spirit and life (Jn. 6:63) and will

never pass away (Mt. 5:18, 24:35).

16 *I AM, the Resurrection and the Life*

The proof that we have God's word living in us is that we believe on Jesus.

John 5:38 And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not.

John 6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

Jesus promised us eternal life and this life starts when we accept Him.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, [even] to them that believe on his name: {power: or, the right, or, privilege}

Because of our father Adam's sin, we all have an appointment with physical death, unless we are honored to meet Jesus in the rapture. However, Jesus, the Lord from heaven, was made a life giving Spirit (1Cor. 15:45). When we are in Him we are a new creation, old things have passed away and all things have become new (2Cor. 5:17). If we go by the way of the grave, the time that we spend there will be but a small interlude in eternity.

1Thesolonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

Believing involves repentance which is simply doing an about face and forsaking the things of our old life that was contrary to God's word and will and determining in our hearts to follow Him to the utmost as He gives us the ability to do so. If our spiritual experience doesn't produce a change in how we live, then it's time for an examination of where we stand in Him.

Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Believing also involves obedience. If we haven't obeyed, we haven't believed. Jesus said that the believer who was baptized would be saved (Mk. 16:16). There is no provision made for those who refuse baptism.

We are promised the Holy Spirit if we have believed on Jesus.

John 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not

yet [given]; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

17 I AM, the Resurrection and the Life

John 4:14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

Isaiah 44:3 For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:

Text: John 11:26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

Believest thou this? What and Whom we believe is of the utmost importance. It is literally a matter of life and death. Some people believe in Buddha, some in Mohammad, others in Confucius. All of these died and are buried. Jesus came out of the grave by the power of the Spirit, becoming the first fruits of those who slept. If His Spirit dwells in us, He will quicken our mortal bodies. At His appearing our mortal bodies will be changed to be like His glorious body and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

John 20:31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

Our salvation depends on what we believe. The devil would love to steal the seed of the word of God from your heart, lest you believe and be saved.

Luke 8:12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life

In John 14:6-11 Jesus told His disciples that He was going away to His Father's house to prepare a place for them. He would return for them later and gather them together to spend eternity with Him. Evidently Thomas was still thinking on an earthly plane, because he wanted to know the address of the place where Jesus was going. Jesus told them that He was going to His Father and no one would be able to accompany Him there except they come

through Him.

18 I AM, the Way, the Truth and the Life

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Once again, Jesus appropriated the eternal name of God unto Himself, when He said, I AM. Somebody has said that Jesus is the way, because He is the truth and the life. I might add that if He could not claim to be ultimate truth and the source of all life, He couldn't hardly lead us to heaven, could He?

Jesus told Thomas that if He had really known Him, He would have known His Father also and in the future He would both know and see Him. Phillip chimed in and asked to have a vision of the Father. Perhaps he had heard what had happened to Peter, James and John on the Mountain of Transfiguration and desired a similar experience? Jesus asked Phillip, one of His earliest disciples, if he had been so long with Him and yet was unknown to Him? Jesus simply stated, " ... he that hath seen me hath seen the Father." Obviously the human man Jesus was not the invisible Father, but Jesus was much more than a man, he was both skin and bone and the invisible God in one visible being (Jn. 1:1,14,10:30; 1Tim. 3:15; Tit. 2:13, Rev. 4:2, 13:8). No doubt, most of us would desire for God to fully reveal Himself to us. The only problem is that no one could look upon Him and live (Ex. 33:20). So that leaves us with a mystery when we contemplate the godhead.

Colossians 1:27 tells us that the mystery of the ages has been revealed to us as "Christ in us, the hope of glory."

1Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

Colossians 1:26 and 2:2 acknowledges that a mystery concerning the incarnation exists. We have to be satisfied with the explanation that God was manifested in flesh (1 Tim 3:16). Martin Luther is quoted as saying in effect that anything we would desire to know of God, we need look no further than Jesus. In Matthew 28:19 Jesus said that all the power of heaven and earth had been given to Him and Colossians 2:9 tells us that all the fulness of the godhead dwells in Jesus bodily.

Matthew 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and [he] to whomsoever the Son will reveal [him].

Jesus spoke of His unity with His Father as a mutual indwelling. The following is a paraphrase of his words in John 14:10-11. "I am in the Father and the Father is in Me. The words that I speak are not my words, but His words. The works that I do are not my works but His works, because He dwells in Me."

Jesus is the Way:

John 10:9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Hebrews 10:19-23 tells us that Jesus established a new and living way by shedding His blood on Calvary. He entered into the Holy of Holies in heaven as a High Priest on our behalf. Because we are washed and covered by His blood, we have access to the throne of God also (Heb. 4:14-16).

Ephesians 2:18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

*Hebrews 10:19 ¶ Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,
20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;
21 And having an high priest over the house of God;
22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*

Jesus is the Truth:

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Ephesians 4:21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

John 18:37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

John 1:17 tells us that "grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

In John 4:24 Jesus told the woman of Samaria that God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. Is Jesus simply talking about some of the doctrinal issues that divide us? Is He saying that you won't make heaven if your doctrinal is not 100% correct? Doctrine is important, but I don't think that is what He is talking about here.

Much of what we see around us is based on the lie that was first espoused to Eve in the garden of Eden when the serpent said to Eve, 'Ye shall not surely die (Gen. 3:4). The world has been under the influence of Satan and his kingdom ever since. But when Jesus was born, the Light of God penetrated the darkness of Satan and exposed his lies. Jesus told us the truth - that we were under the bondage of Satan and doomed to die - but that He had come to give us abundant life to anyone who would believe on Him.

Hebrews 2:15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have [it] more abundantly.

Isaiah 9:2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Jesus is the Life:

John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

John 14:19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

John 5:25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

21 *I AM, the Way, the Truth and the Life*

John 6:57 As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.

John 6:68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

John 8:51 ¶ Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.

John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

Colossians 3:4 When Christ, [who is] our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Conclusion:

We have posted some of the claims of Jesus and the scriptures that verify His claims. I believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments point to Jesus as the Almighty God who was manifested in the flesh, for the purpose of our salvation.

I pray that if you don't know Him, that these simple lessons, will cause you to accept Him as your Lord and Savior. I pray also that if you do know Him that you will come to know Him much more intimately.

God Bless,

Don Spooner

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