

I AM WHAT I AM

1 Corinthians 15:10 (KJV) But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain.

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The Old Testament depicts the original incident of sin and the fall of man:

Genesis 3:8-10 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

In willfully rebelling against God, Adam lost the close communion he had with his Maker. Ever since then, mankind has been **emotionally AFRAID, emotionally NAKED** and **emotionally IN HIDING**. Our problems all stem from the fact that we are separated from the presence of God in our lives. WE NO LONGER KNOW WHO WE ARE!

But when you become a Christian, this curse is reversed and many wonderful things happen:

- **All your sins are forgiven**
Colossians 2:13-14 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;
- **You receive eternal life**
John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.
- **You are delivered from Satan's domain and transferred into God's kingdom**
Colossians 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:
- **Christ comes to dwell within you by His spirit**
Colossians 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

- **You are made free**
John 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.
- **You become a new creation**
2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
- **You are declared righteous by God**
2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.
- **You are accepted by God**
Ephesians 1:6-7 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;
- **You become a child of God**
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:

The Bible calls Satan the "father of lies" because he lies, twists and distorts the truth so that his deceptions appear to be more reasonable and attractive than the truth. That is how he snared Eve. And his tactics haven't changed one bit in the 6000 years of man's recorded history!

THE DEVIL DOES NOT WANT YOU TO KNOW WHO YOU ARE!

Jesus Christ was our pattern for living in all things. He was God in flesh; He didn't have to pray or be baptized, but He did so to set an example:

Matthew 3:15 (KJV) And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

Jesus also went through testing and trials, just like us! And just like our hard times, these trials accomplished something in His life ...

- **Hebrews 5:7-9 (KJV)** Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

- **Hebrews 2:9-10 (KJV)** But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.
- **Hebrews 4:15 (KJV)** For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Did you know that Jesus never identified Himself as "I AM" before His baptism and temptation experience in the wilderness?

"I AM THAT I AM" was the original form of God's name that He revealed to Moses at the burning bush on Mount Horeb when He called him to be Israel's deliver from Egypt. That name carried within it the concepts of being the Eternal and Self-Existent One, a being who is Omnipotent, Omnipresent, and Omniscient. ("I AM ... everything you need!")

So, when Jesus used the phrase "I Am" in the New Testament, it was not just a pronoun and verb. It was the Greek phrase "EGO EIMI" or "I AM" which identified Him to them as Jehovah God of the Old Testament!

- **John 4:24-26** (TO THE SAMARITAN WOMAN AT THE WELL) God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am (he). **(I AM)**
- **John 6:35** And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.
- **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 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.
- **John 10:11** I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.
- **John 11:25** (TO MARTHA AT LAZARUS' TOMB) Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:
- **John 14:6** (TO THOMAS) Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

- **John 13:13** Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.
- **John 8:24** (TO THE PHARISEES) 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.
- **John 8:28** Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am (he), and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.
- **John 8:58-59** Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.
- **Matthew 14:27** (TO THE DISCIPLES, WALKING TO THEM ON THE WATER) But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. **(TAKE COURAGE, I AM)**
- **John 18:5-6** (TO THE SOLDIERS ARRESTING HIM) They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am (he). And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. As soon then as he had said unto them, I am (he), they went backward, and fell to the ground.
- **Mark 14:62** (TO THE HIGH PRIEST AT HIS TRIAL) And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

Because Jesus was God in the flesh, He had an absolute right to use this name to identify Himself. So, why didn't He do so BEFORE His baptism and temptation in the wilderness? Everything that Jesus did was with purpose – HE WANTED TO TEACH US SOMETHING!

AT HIS BAPTISM, THE SPIRIT OF GOD SAID "THIS IS MY BELOVED SON," BUT AFTER HIS TEMPTATION JESUS (THE FLESH OF GOD) SAID HE WAS THE SON OF GOD.

This was not to put an artificial distinction in the Godhead where none exists, but to teach us the difference between SPIRIT and FLESH.

IT IS ONE THING TO HAVE GOD SAY "YOU ARE MY CHILD," BUT IT IS QUITE ANOTHER THING FOR YOU TO SAY (AND KNOW!) THAT YOU ARE GOD'S CHILD! YOU NEED TO DECLARE "I AM!"

Look at the statements of Paul while he was going through the many trials and persecutions he endured during his ministry...

Romans 1:16 (KJV) For **I am not ashamed** of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Romans 8:38-39 (KJV) For **I am persuaded**, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Corinthians 7:4 (KJV) Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my glorying of you: **I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation.**

2 Corinthians 12:10 (KJV) Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for **when I am weak, then am I strong.**

Galatians 2:20 (KJV) **I am crucified with Christ**: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Acts 21:13 (KJV) Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for **I am ready** not to be bound only, but also **to die** at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 27:23 (KJV) For there stood by me this night the angel of God, **whose I am**, and whom I serve,

Ephesians 6:20 (KJV) For which **I am an ambassador in bonds**: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Philippians 4:11 (KJV) Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, **in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.**

Philippians 1:17 (KJV) But the other of love, knowing that **I am set for the defence of the gospel.**

Philippians 1:23 (KJV) For **I am in a strait betwixt two**, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

2 Timothy 1:12 (KJV) For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless **I am not ashamed**: for I know whom I have believed, **and am persuaded** that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

2 Timothy 4:6 (KJV) For **I am now ready to be offered**, and the time of my departure is at hand.

PAUL KNEW EXACTLY WHO HE WAS!

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1 Corinthians 15:10 (MES) But because God was so gracious, so very generous, here I am. And I'm not about to let his grace go to waste.

The great religions of the world have all attempted to answer the deep need in the heart of man for deliverance from sin and communion with God, but sadly, they have all come up short ...

HINDUISM

Teaches that we must through our own good deeds work toward achieving oneness with the universal soul. If we fail to do this, we are punished by the law of karma, which returns us in another form of existence through reincarnation.

BUDDHISM

Teaches that we must diligently follow the Eightfold Path to rid ourselves of evil. We can never know how well we are doing, because truth cannot be objectively communicated. We must constantly strive for a state of blissful enlightenment.

ISLAM

Teaches that we must achieve salvation through a rigidly defined method of worship, enforced good deeds, and fanatical devotion. If we die while using force to bring the world under Allah's dominion, we will be welcomed to an eternal state of sensuality.

DENOMINAL CHRISTIANITY

Teaches that we achieve salvation through mere belief in Jesus Christ, in contradiction to the clear teaching of God's Word. It often results in no lasting life change, as converts are left to live Christ's teachings through their own power.

BUT, APOSTOLIC CHRISTIANITY ...

Teaches that we achieve salvation through explicitly obeying God's Word, resulting in a real death to the "old man" and a real "new birth," accompanied by the power of the Holy Spirit to live a Christian life.

MY SPIRIT AND GOD'S SPIRIT AGREE THAT I AM HIS CHILD!

Romans 8:15-16 (KJV) For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: