

I Am

Sunday, May 29, 2022
10:30 AM

I want to introduce a new series that focuses on Who We Are In Christ.

In Exodus 3 when God called Moses to go to the Israelites and free them from the bondage of their slavery in Egypt, Moses asked God to give him a name by which to identify Him to the Israelites...

Exodus 3:13-14

13 Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

14 God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'"

In that one statement God revealed so much about himself. I love that description "I AM" it means he is always present, past, present and future. It reveals his eternal existence and his Omnipresence. (He is everywhere all at the same time) What a great message to deliver to the suffering Israelites. I exist and I am here. I haven't forgotten about you.

It also reveals the Omnipotence of God. "I AM" meaning I exist of myself. I have all power.

And it reveals the Omniscience of God. "I AM" meaning I have all knowledge and wisdom. There is nothing that is hidden from me.

And that statement became the identifier of who God was.

So much so that when Jesus used the same words to describe himself, the Jews immediately grew angry and wanted to stone him because they knew he was equating himself with God.

John 8:58-59

58 "Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" 59 At this, they picked up stones to stone him...

In fact, Jesus used this description about himself and elaborated on the character and nature of God with seven different "I AM" statements (JBQ QUESTION)

1. **I Am the Bread of Life:** Jesus alone can sustain us, who are but starving beggars looking for food ([John 6](#)).
2. **I Am the [Light of the World](#):** Jesus is the original and eternal source of light in the universe for us who are spiritually blind by birth ([John 8](#)).
3. **I Am the Gate of the Sheepfold:** Jesus is the only door to life for us who are lost outside God's will ([John 10](#)).
4. **I Am the [Good Shepherd](#):** Jesus knows and cares for us who are orphaned, [wandering sheep](#) without a shepherd ([John 10](#)).
5. **I Am the [Resurrection](#) and the Life:** Jesus is the key to escaping spiritual death for us who are hopelessly doomed to death because of our sin ([John 11](#)).
6. **I Am the Way, Truth, and Life:** Jesus is the accessible path, the illuminating truth, and the giver of life for us who are lost, ignorant, and dead without Him ([John 14](#)).
7. **I Am the True Vine:** Jesus is the source of eternal life for us who are dead and useless branches apart from him ([John 15](#)).

In this series I want to apply this statement to ourselves as we discover what the Bible reveals about who we are in Christ. I am using this statement, not because I want to make us equal to God, but because we are who we are because of God. When we declare "I AM" we are taking hold of the eternal truths and power of God's work in our lives

Today we will quickly look at 4 of those statements that are closely related...

I am saved...

I am redeemed...

I am born again...

I am a new creation...

1. I Am Saved...

To be saved means that we have been rescued. God sent his Son into the world to save us from the consequences of our sin which is eternal death

Titus 2:11

11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.

Titus 3:5-7

5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our

Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Picture with me that you are a passenger on a ship in the middle of the open sea. You fall off the ship and it sails away leaving you fighting for your life to keep your head above the water. No life jacket, no land for hundreds of miles, nothing to grab a hold of and float on. On top of that, a storm moves in and darkens the skies. It begins to rain and the wind churns up the waves even more. You look around and see the fins of several sharks circling you a short distance away. There is absolutely no hope of survival.

Suddenly an object splashes down near your face. You look to see a life preserver tied to a rope. Following the rope with your eyes you see a small boat and can hear a voice yelling at you to reach out and grab a hold of the ring. You try to reach out, you want to take hold of it and you know if you could, you would be saved. But your strength is gone and you just can't do it. A splash and the sound of someone swimming. You feel someone grab hold of you and wrap your arms around the life ring and then you feel the pull of the rope drawing you to the safety of the Boat. You have been rescued from certain death. You have been saved.

That is how I picture my salvation. Salvation is not something we did for ourselves but something someone did for us.

Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

And yet, while we are not saved by what we do, there is one thing that we do that causes us to be saved - We believe. Paul told the Philippian Jailer...

Acts 16:29-31

29 The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

31 They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved

We believe - You could refuse to believe that help had come. You could foolishly believe that you don't need any help that you can make it on your own. You could turn away from the hands that came to give you the strength to take a hold of the life ring of salvation.

The Word of God tells us that...

Romans 10:13

13 for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Romans 10:9-10

9 If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Who am I in Christ Jesus... I Am Saved!

2. I am redeemed...

While salvation speaks of rescue, redemption speaks of restoration. The word REDEEM means to buy back

Revelation 5:9

9 ...with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.

1 Peter 1:18-19

18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

God loved us so much that he sent His son to pay the price for our redemption. Fernanda reminded us of this verse last week.

John 1:12

12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—

The work of Christ not only saves us from eternity in hell, but restores us to right relationship and position with God.

Think of the Prodigal son who thought that his return to the Father would only save him from the death of starvation. But, the father did more than save him, he restored him to full relationship as his son.

Luke 15:21-24

21 “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

In fact, the truth of this principle is exactly why, I believe, the older brother got so angry. Once the younger brother was restored as a son with full rights, the older brother would have to share the inheritance and all that the father had with the younger brother instead of having it all to himself. As far as he was concerned the younger brother didn’t deserve to be restored.

In Christ, you are saved, and you are redeemed!

There are two more "I AM" Statements that I want you to understand about yourself today

3. I am born again...

John 3:1-17

3 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

3 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

4 “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

5 Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

9 “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

10 “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? 11 Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. 12 I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? 13 No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. 14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

To be born again means we get to start all over, with no record of the past life and the debt that we incurred; but this time we do so with the power and strength of God living inside of us.

4. I am a new creation...

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ...

21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Wow, what an incredible truth for us to grasp about who we are in Christ. This is not something that we hope we can become but something we already are

BAPTISM VIDEO: Let Your Light Shine

It is a SYMBOL

Romans 6:1-4

6 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Baptism is a SYMBOL of what has happened in our lives when we repented of our sins and asked Jesus to come into our hearts to save us. It symbolizes His death and resurrection, that paid the price for our salvation and it symbolizes our resurrection from the grave to spend eternity with Him in heaven

It is a STANDARD

Jesus set the standard of Baptism in Matthew 28

Matthew 28:19-20

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

The Assemblies of God accepts that standard and has made it a part of our church doctrine - statement 6 of our 16 fundamental truths

The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded by the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Saviour and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life.

Acts 8:35-38 (NASB)

³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.

³⁶ As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁷ [And Philip said, "If you believe with

all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."]

³⁸ And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.

We are not baptized to be saved but because we have been saved

It is a STATEMENT

Baptism says...

- I have repented of my sins
- I have given my life to Christ
- I believe He is the way, the truth and the life and that no one can make it to heaven without Him
- I want to follow him and grow in my faith
- I am not ashamed of my relationship with Him and want others to know what I have done

Luke 12:8

8 "I tell you, whoever publicly acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God.

Revelation 3:5

5 The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels.

It is a SURRENDER

James 4:7

7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

In Mark Chapter 10 we read the story of a young man who said he wanted to follow Jesus but couldn't bring himself to surrender his life completely to Jesus and walked away from a relationship with Him when Jesus asked him to sell what he had and give it

to the poor and then follow him. Jesus then told his disciples that it was hard for rich people to enter the kingdom of God because they don't want to surrender. The same is true for us, rich or poor when we put other things above our relationship with Christ.

Stories are told of Crusaders or as some tell it Roman Soldiers who would be baptized, but keep their fighting arm and sword above the water indicating that they still wanted to have control of their ability to kill their enemies at their discretion rather than God's

*This is one reason why we don't practice infant Baptism in the Assemblies of God. Because Baptism must be a personal choice made following a commitment to Christ as Savior and Lord. A personal choice to surrender in obedience to Christ's command to be baptized. Infants are not making the choice to be baptized, someone is making it for them