

# I Am (Part 2)

Sunday, June 5, 2022  
10:30 AM

Last week we began a new series that focuses on Who We Are In Christ. Making use of the same words that God gave to Moses to describe himself to the Israelites and the same words that Jesus used to identify his deity - I AM - began to discover what the Bible reveals about who we are in Christ. When we declare "I AM" we are taking hold of the eternal truths and power of God's work in our lives. We can declare I AM not because we are equal to God, but because God has made us who we are

Last week we took hold of the power of these truths...

I am saved...

I am redeemed...

I am born again...

I am a new creation...

This morning on Pentecost Sunday we need to understand

## I AM the temple of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 (NCV)

16 Don't you know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? 17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person, because God's temple is holy and you are that temple.

A Temple is built to contain something much bigger than itself

So many religions focus on the building itself rather than what is on the inside

1 Kings 8:1-11

8 Then King Solomon summoned into his presence at Jerusalem the elders of Israel, all the heads of the tribes and the chiefs of the Israelite families, to bring up the ark of the Lord's covenant from Zion, the City of David. 2 All the Israelites came together to King Solomon at the time of the festival in the month of Ethanim, the seventh month.

3 When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the priests took up the ark, 4 and they brought up the ark of the Lord and the tent of meeting and all the sacred furnishings

in it. The priests and Levites carried them up, 5 and King Solomon and the entire assembly of Israel that had gathered about him were before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and cattle that they could not be recorded or counted.

6 The priests then brought the ark of the Lord's covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, and put it beneath the wings of the cherubim. 7 The cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark and overshadowed the ark and its carrying poles. 8 These poles were so long that their ends could be seen from the Holy Place in front of the inner sanctuary, but not from outside the Holy Place; and they are still there today. 9 There was nothing in the ark except the two stone tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where the Lord made a covenant with the Israelites after they came out of Egypt.

10 When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the Lord. 11 And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled his temple.

It took Solomon 7 1/2 years to hold the temple not counting all the years of preparation prior to the start of construction by himself as well as his father before him.

It was a magnificently beautiful structure

But what was more impressive was the glory of God that filled out that temple on that day of dedication

Solomon knew it wasn't the temple that made God great but the greatness of God that made the temple great

There is an even more glorious temple built by the hands of God - YOU!!

1 Kings 8:27

27 "But will God really dwell on earth? (IN ME?) The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!

The answer to that question is YES... You are THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Psalm 26:8

8 Lord, I love the house where you live, the place where your glory dwells.

That place is you

## A Temple can be used for purposes that it was not intended for

When Paul tells them that they are God's Temple, he also gives them a warning that reminded them that God's temple was holy and that we need to be careful what we do with God's temple. It has been created for the purposes of God, but just like the Temple that Solomon built; what was intended for the glory of God can be conscripted for unholy purposes.

### Chrissy's Story

Paul's warning to the Corinthians must have brought up images of the Temple in Jerusalem, which on more than one occasion, through the reign of wicked kings, had been given over to purposes for which it was not intended

#### 2 Chronicles 29:1-9

29 Hezekiah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother's name was Abijah daughter of Zechariah. 2 He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, just as his father David had done.

3 In the first month of the first year of his reign, he opened the doors of the temple of the Lord and repaired them. 4 He brought in the priests and the Levites, assembled them in the square on the east side 5 and said: "Listen to me, Levites! Consecrate yourselves now and consecrate the temple of the Lord, the God of your ancestors. Remove all defilement from the sanctuary. 6 Our parents were unfaithful; they did evil in the eyes of the Lord our God and forsook him. They turned their faces away from the Lord's dwelling place and turned their backs on him. 7 They also shut the doors of the portico and put out the lamps. They did not burn incense or present any burnt offerings at the sanctuary to the God of Israel. 8 Therefore, the anger of the Lord has fallen on Judah and Jerusalem; he has made them an object of dread and horror and scorn, as you can see with your own eyes. 9 This is why our fathers have fallen by the sword and why our sons and daughters and our wives are in captivity.

#### 2 Chronicles 34:11-8, 14-15, 19-21

34 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. 2 He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and followed the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.

3 In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David. In his twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of high places, Asherah poles and idols. 4 Under his direction the altars of the Baals were torn down; he cut to pieces the incense altars that were above them, and smashed the Asherah poles and the idols. These he broke to pieces and scattered over the graves of those who had sacrificed to them. 5 He burned the bones of the priests on their altars, and so he purged Judah and Jerusalem. 6 In the towns of Manasseh, Ephraim and Simeon, as far as Naphtali, and in the ruins around them, 7 he tore down the altars and the Asherah poles and crushed the idols to powder and cut to pieces all the incense altars throughout Israel. Then he went back to Jerusalem.

8 In the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign, to purify the land and the temple, he sent Shaphan son of Azaliah and Maaseiah the ruler of the city, with Joah son of Joahaz, the recorder, to repair the temple of the Lord his God.

14 While they were bringing out the money that had been taken into the temple of the Lord, Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the Lord that had been given through Moses. 15 Hilkiah said to Shaphan the secretary, "I have found the Book of the Law in the temple of the Lord." He gave it to Shaphan.

19 When the king heard the words of the Law, he tore his robes. 20 He gave these orders to Hilkiah, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Abdon son of Micah, Shaphan the secretary and Asaiah the king's attendant: 21 "Go and inquire of the Lord for me and for the remnant in Israel and Judah about what is written in this book that has been found. Great is the Lord's anger that is poured out on us because those who have gone before us have not kept the word of the Lord; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written in this book."

## A Temple can be cleansed, renewed and restored

2 Chronicles 29:10-11, 15-19; 35-36 (Hezekiah)

10 Now I intend to make a covenant with the Lord, the God of Israel, so that his fierce anger will turn away from us. 11 My sons, do not be negligent now, for the Lord has chosen you to stand before him and serve him, to minister before him and to burn incense."

15 When they had assembled their fellow Levites and consecrated themselves, they went in to purify the temple of the Lord, as the king had ordered, following the word

of the Lord. 16 The priests went into the sanctuary of the Lord to purify it. They brought out to the courtyard of the Lord's temple everything unclean that they found in the temple of the Lord. The Levites took it and carried it out to the Kidron Valley. 17 They began the consecration on the first day of the first month, and by the eighth day of the month they reached the portico of the Lord. For eight more days they consecrated the temple of the Lord itself, finishing on the sixteenth day of the first month.

18 Then they went in to King Hezekiah and reported: "We have purified the entire temple of the Lord, the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the table for setting out the consecrated bread, with all its articles. 19 We have prepared and consecrated all the articles that King Ahaz removed in his unfaithfulness while he was king. They are now in front of the Lord's altar."

So the service of the temple of the Lord was reestablished. 36 Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced at what God had brought about for his people, because it was done so quickly.

2 Chronicles 34:9-11, 12, 29-33 (Josiah)

9 They went to Hilkiah the high priest and gave him the money that had been brought into the temple of God, which the Levites who were the gatekeepers had collected from the people of Manasseh, Ephraim and the entire remnant of Israel and from all the people of Judah and Benjamin and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. 10 Then they entrusted it to the men appointed to supervise the work on the Lord's temple. These men paid the workers who repaired and restored the temple. 11 They also gave money to the carpenters and builders to purchase dressed stone, and timber for joists and beams for the buildings that the kings of Judah had allowed to fall into ruin.

12 The workers labored faithfully.

29 Then the king called together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. 30 He went up to the temple of the Lord with the people of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests and the Levites—all the people from the least to the greatest. He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the Lord. 31 The king stood by his pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the Lord—to follow the Lord and keep his commands, statutes and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, and to obey the words of the covenant written in this book.

32 Then he had everyone in Jerusalem and Benjamin pledge themselves to it; the people of Jerusalem did this in accordance with the covenant of God, the God of their ancestors.

33 Josiah removed all the detestable idols from all the territory belonging to the Israelites, and he had all who were present in Israel serve the Lord their God. As long as he lived, they did not fail to follow the Lord, the God of their ancestors.

### **TESTIMONY OF RESTORATION**

*5 years ago this month [pride month], I came out to my family and publicly as a lesbian. I was convinced. Set in my ways that I was born that way and that no one or nothing could ever change that.*

*But God. He moved and molded my heart into a sculpture of His grace. Forgiveness. Love. Compassion. Understanding. He used people in my life at that time in the summer of 2016 to show me what He wanted for me, and that what I wanted for myself was leading nowhere good and was not the same.*

*If wasn't my sexuality that was my destruction. It was my sin. It was my heart posture. It was my choices in my struggles and temptations. It was my lust. My pride. My feelings as Truth instead of His Word as Truth. I was lost. I was confused. I was mad. I wanted sorrow not healing. I wanted pleasure because I was simply in pain.*

*I was insecure. I believed I deserved nothing yet wanted everything but was looking in the wrong places. All of them.*

*But God. He picked me up and listened. And while He listened He healed me. He saved me. And He delivered me. He was always running after me.*

*Today I live a life that strives to please God and not man. I no longer identify as a lesbian and desire a husband and children. My purpose is to please the spirit and not the flesh. To see the eternal Kingdom plan instead of my own, broken and worldly one. I live dying to my flesh daily. A struggle that I will probably always have. It is not easy. But it is the best decision I ever made so I continue to lean on my father.*

*He wants you free. He wants you at peace. Pride is the starting root of self destruction. Praise God for His new mercies daily and His deliverance. I serve a God of true love and true forgiveness. Thank you Jesus. He did it for me. He can do it for you. He wants to witness your birth again. Into His arms.*

## Sam's Story

The Temple was meant to be filled with the presence of God

Acts 1:4-5

4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 2:1-4

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Ephesians 5:18 (Paul echoed the very words that Ananias spoke to him after he had been blinded on the road to Damascus)

18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,

Acts 19:1-6 (It was so important that it was one of the first questions asked of new believers)

19 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples 2 and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

3 So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?”  
“John’s baptism,” they replied.

4 Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” 5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

But in order to be filled, there must be a desire to be filled... God is not going to force Himself upon you, he is waiting for you to ask.

We often quote the verses found in Matthew 7 and Luke 11 and relate them to prayer; but we forget that the context of this asking is related to God filling us with the Holy Spirit

Luke 11:11-13

9 “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

11 “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Once filled, The Temple will overflow in Worship, in Prayer and with The Power of God

John 7:38-39

38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

There is worship and then there is Pentecostal Worship... There is prayer and then there is Pentecostal Prayer... There is a form of Godliness and then there is The Power of God

The point of the Temple being filled is not to keep it contained but that it may overflow and spill out into the world.