

I AM

Sunday, August 7, 2022
10:30 AM

Declare these truths we have learned so far...

I AM saved...

I AM redeemed...

I AM born again...

I AM a new creation... because He died for my sins on the cross

I AM a temple of the Holy Spirit... because He has poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit who fills me with His presence

I AM Loved and I AM Forgiven... Because God's love is unconditional, and His mercies never end

I AM a Mighty Warrior... because He calls me to fulfill His purposes and anoints me with His power to accomplish those purposes

I AM a Listener of God... because God speaks and wants me to hear His voice

I AM a servant of the most High God... because Jesus has cleansed me and called me into His service

I Am A Part of The Body of Christ

I AM A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST

Mark 10:17-30

17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

18 “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. 19 You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.’ ”

20 “Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.”

21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

22 At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

23 Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!”

24 The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is (for those who trust in riches) to enter the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

26 The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?”

27 Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”

28 Then Peter spoke up, “We have left everything to follow you!”

29 “Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel 30 will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.

We must remember, that "I am who I am, because of what Christ has done for me." But we must also remember that who I am in Christ, while made possible by Christ's work for us and in us, is realized the choices that we make to take hold of and walk in the truth of what He has done for us.

For instance, I couldn't be a follower of Christ if He had not made it possible. Yet he leaves the choice of following to us...

In his book, *Not a Fan: Becoming a Completely Committed Follower of Jesus*, Kyle Idleman writes...

“My concern is that many of our churches in America have gone from being sanctuaries to becoming stadiums. And every week all the fans come to the stadium where they cheer for Jesus but have no interest in truly following him. The biggest threat to the church today is fans who call themselves Christians but aren’t actually

interested in following Christ. They want to be close enough to Jesus to get all the benefits, but not so close that it requires anything from them."

"In teaching people what it means to be a Christian, we spend much of our time and effort bringing them to a point of belief without clearly calling them to follow. We have taken "believe" and we have written that in capital letters with bold print: BELIEVE. But everything that has to do with following has been put in small print: follow."

— Kyle Idleman, [Not a Fan: Becoming a Completely Committed Follower of Jesus](#)

The passage we read in Mark 10 about the Rich Young Ruler is all about Following Jesus... Notice at the end of this conversation and the resulting incredulous question by the disciples asking "Who then can be saved?" Jesus reminds them that salvation and following Him are impossible in our own strength (with man this is impossible) but God has made it possible for us because "all things are possible with God"

I AM a Follower of Christ because He has made it possible; but, just like the Rich Young Ruler, he leaves the choice of following to me

1. A Follower must HUMBLY SUBMIT

There was nothing humble about this man's approach to Jesus. It was look at me, this is what I have done. But we have to submit to Jesus' perspective, not ours. If Jesus says this is what you need to do to follow me, then I should say Lord I will do that and If indeed feel I have been doing that, then I should say, YES, Lord I need to do that even more.

When Peter was called to follow Jesus he began in humility by saying "*Because you say so, I will let down the nets*" and then after the catch declared "*Away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!*"

Luke 9:57-62

57 As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

58 Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

59 He said to another man, "Follow me."

But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

60 Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”

61 Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.”

62 Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

2. A Follower must WILLFULLY SURRENDER

The Rich Young Ruler was unwilling to surrender what was most important to him in order to follow Jesus. The Bible tells us that the Peter, Andrew, James and John willingly surrendered their nets, their lives to follow Jesus. And in this passage, Jesus reminds them that those who have made such sacrifices *"will receive 100 times as much in this present age, along with persecutions and in the age to come eternal life."*

“The reason Jesus is so adamant about followers surrendering everything is because the reality is this: The one thing that we are most reluctant to give up has the most potential to become a substitute for Him.”

— Kyle Idleman, [Not a Fan: Becoming a Completely Committed Follower of Jesus](#)

3. A Follower must OBEDIENTLY FOLLOW

Songs of commitment we used to sing

- Follow, I will follow Thee my Lord
- I have decided to Follow Jesus
- Where He leads me I will Follow

Follow, I will follow Thee my Lord
Follow ev'ry passing day (my Savior)
My tomorrows are all known to thee,
Thou wilt lead me all the way.

I must follow Jesus Christ, My Lord,
Follow ev'rywhere He leads. (my Savior)
When i follow and obey His Word,
Then His Spirit meets my needs.

I Am Still Being Changed

Being a follower doesn't mean that we are perfect, but it does mean that we have been and will continue to be changed by his power

Philippians 1:6, 9-11

6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT)

18 So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

2 Peter 1:3-11

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

10 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, 11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

“Fans don’t mind him doing a little touch-up work, but Jesus wants complete renovation. Fans come to Jesus thinking tune-up, but Jesus is thinking overhaul. Fans think a little makeup is fine, but Jesus is thinking makeover. Fans think a little decorating is required, but Jesus wants a complete remodel. Fans want Jesus to inspire them, but Jesus wants to interfere with their lives.”

— Kyle Idleman, [Not a Fan: Becoming a Completely Committed Follower of Jesus](#)

I AM Weak but He is Strong

2 Corinthians 12:8-9

8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.