

# “Who is...I AM?”

*Written June of 2012*

**Scripture Reading:** Exodus 3:13, 14

## **Introduction**

Just in case you're wondering there wasn't a type-o in today's church program when you read the title of today's Message. However, what the title implies is of extreme importance to every Follower of Jesus Christ; because in analyzing this title it helps us to begin to truly reflect on Who is this “**I AM**” in our daily Christian lives.

Before we begin today let us all bow our heads and ask for the Holy Spirit to open our Hearts, Minds and Spirit to receive what the Lord has prepared for us today...

## **Sermon**

I would like to begin today's Message with a little exercise so that we can emphasize a little better the meaning of today's Message. I would like to ask for two volunteers to help me with this illustration please.

## **Exercise:**

Thank you both for volunteering; now this exercise/illustration is very simple. I'm going to ask you to finish the following sentence with the first thing that pops into your mind. This will be a small competition to see how fast you can answer. As I ask the first person the question they have to answer quickly and not hesitate if they do then the other person wins.

To make this exercise even simpler I am going to ask you the same question over and over but each time you must give a different answer. Here is the question, **are you ready???**

**Finish the following sentence: I AM \_\_\_\_\_.....**

Many of the first answers were probably I AM: a dad, a mom, a wife, a husband, a Latino, a doctor, a chef, a policeman, a firefighter, a businessman, a deacon, a pastor, an elder, a nice person, hungry, bored etc...

How many of us would've answered similar to our two volunteers? Raise your hand please. The amazing thing is that through the common first responses we have seen here, they help us to see what the majority of people think their IDENTITY is. Or in other words based on these responses we can gauge where or how the majority of people define themselves.

Thank you to my two volunteers and for being brave enough to come up here and participate in today's Message. Now let's analyze this exercise even further. Honestly ask yourself: What's the first thing that pops into your mind when you wake up in the morning? That answer determines where your heart is. How did you answer or finish the sentence of the illustration today?

“I AM \_\_\_\_\_.....?” **This answer also defines where your heart is and in that answer, you declare what your IDENTITY is.**

In **Matthew 6:21** it tells us: **“where your heart is, there also is your treasure.”**

**Our IDENTITY defines who we are.** I find it very interesting that most people when asked to finish the sentence **“I AM \_\_\_\_\_....”** respond with the first thing that pops into their head which are normally the things of this world.

Very few people respond: **I AM....a child of the Most High God, a Follower of Jesus Christ, I am ONE in Christ, I am a Christian, I am bold for Christ, I am not ashamed of my Savior, I am blessed, I am anointed etc...**Funny I barely heard any of these answers.

**Where, or in what are we truly placing our IDENTITY in?** How are we defining our lives? My dear Brothers and Sisters this is why the title of today's Message is so vital to understand. Our **IDENTITY** or how we define ourselves should be based on the Great I AM. We have all forgotten “Who is...I AM?” I want us to go back to our Scripture Reading found in **Exodus 3:13, 14** so that we can gain a deeper understanding on **“WHO IS...I AM”?**

We all have heard of this story and of the first encounter Moses had with God on Mount Sinai; and you're probably telling yourselves, well duh!!! **I AM** is God I knew that already. You're probably thinking to yourselves well I've answered the question of today's Sermon and I'm ready to go home now.

Sadly, the vast majority here today probably thought something similar to this, and the purpose of this Sermon Message is to help you understand through the Holy Spirit that there is **SO MUCH** more to this encounter that applies to our daily lives. Let's take a closer look at this encounter because it's the foundation of today's Message.

In this encounter Moses asks God what he should call Him. God simply replied and said: **“I AM that I AM”**

Now I tried to imagine to myself what was going through Moses head when God answered this to him. Let's paint the scenario or picture for you and imagine in your head this whole encounter. Now keep in mind here is a burning bush and a loud commanding voice telling Moses to take his shoes off because the ground that he is walking on is Holy Ground.

Now in our humanity we would all probably think to ourselves in that moment (*burning bush & loud voice and all*) about the response given, **I AM what?** We would probably think, **hey loud voice person you are what?** Or maybe we would've probably said: uh loud voice person, **you kinda of left me hanging here,** you first said I AM and I waited for you to finish and then you said I AM again. A, umm, loud voice person I AM a little confused!!!!

Moses teaches us something so important through this encounter that I have totally missed my entire life until it was revealed to me through the Holy Spirit in regards to the response God gave Moses. Please pay very close attention to this because it's the meat and potatoes of today's message...

***"I AM that I AM"***. That is just it my dear Brothers and Sisters. God is so **SOVERIEGN**, so **MIGHTY** and so **POWERFUL** that **He just IS**. Do you get this my dear brethren? ***"I AM"*** that's all He told Moses, **because in those simple two words was summed up the TOTALITY of who GOD IS. God is defined by these two words "I AM". These simple two words is all we need in LIFE.**

That is all he told Moses and that's what He tells us today my dear Brothers and Sisters **"I AM"**...He tells us **"I AM"!!!!!!** Memorize these two words Body of Christ, this is our true Life Line. Not your church, your family, your job, your human knowledge; only **"I AM"**

Are you getting the true Power of this encounter? Let me apply this to our everything day lives.

- When Trials and Tribulations come your way **"I AM"**.
- When your unemployed and the bills are piling up **"I AM"**.
- When the doctor tells you that you're sick **"I AM"**.
- When you don't feel valued **"I AM"**.
- When your Faith gets shaky **"I AM"**.
- When you feel like everyone's against you **"I AM"**.
- When you think no-one cares about you **"I AM"**.
- When you felt lonely because you're single **"I AM"**.
- When you feel tempted to sin **"I AM"**.

**"When life throws you lemons, *"I AM"* will make lemonade out of it."**

**GOD IS EVERYTHING AND ANYTHING ALL AT THE SAME TIME.** God is it; there is nothing else to add. This is why He told Moses **"I AM"**. Brothers and Sisters are you seeing this. **GOD IS OUR EVERYTHING; IF WE HAVE HIM WE NEED NOTHING ELSE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

This is the God that we serve. The same God that called Moses His friend, is the same God that calls us friend. We serve an All Powerful and Mighty God Who is called **"I AM"**.

**How can we begin to truly know who the Great "I AM" is?** We have to first begin by defining what the word **"KNOW"** means.

- **Know** = be aware of, be acquainted with, recognize, have an understanding about **or have an experience with.**

Let's look at **Psalms 46:10 "Be still and know that I am God"**. The key to knowing God is to **"BE STILL"**. This doesn't mean that we should just sit and do nothing; it means that we should be still in our spirit (*inner being*) and allow the Holy Spirit to Guide us, Teach us and Instruct us who the Great I AM is.

It is only through the Holy Spirit that we can begin to "know" or have an experience with the Great I AM. The Scriptures reveal to us how God answers the sentence of the exercise/illustration we did earlier; and at the same time gives us a deeper understanding of the Great I AM.\*

**"I AM \_\_\_\_\_....."**

- THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE...John 11:25.
- THE ROCK...I Corinthians 10:4.
- THE LIVING WATER...John 4:10.
- THE BREAD OF LIFE...John 6:35.
- THE HOLY ONE...Mark 1:24.
- THE GOOD SHEPHERD...John 10:11.
- THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD...John 8:12.
- THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE...John 14:6.
- ALPHA AND OMEGA...Revelation 22:13.
- AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH...Hebrews 12:2.

*\*These are but a few examples of how God answers or finishes the sentence of our earlier illustration.*

In our times of trial and tribulation; when we are broken bruised and battered, remember my dear Brothers and Sisters we serve the Great I AM. "Who is..."I AM"? Simple, we just reviewed several texts that reveal and define the IDENTITY of "I AM". **Alpha and Omega lives in us.** The God who spoke and Creation happened; that's the God we serve. We have the Power and Authority of God IN us through the Blood of Jesus Christ.

As the Exercise illustrated to us when we began today's Message, we cannot base our IDENTITY in anything that is in this world. Our IDENTITY is in God, and God alone! Most people spend their entire lifetime searching for their IDENTITY in: Careers, Educational Degrees, Family, Parenthood, Church, Friends, Partying, Drinking, Drugs and many other things that are truly a waste of time. Some seek their IDENTITY in Religion, but all of these examples are a search that is in vain.

In my youth I never truly understood who the "Great I AM" was. You see my parents taught me how to have religion with God not RELATIONSHIP with God. Religion blinds us to see the True Authority we have in Christ Jesus. Religion teaches us to pray to a God that is up there (*Heaven*) looking down on us, and waiting for us to mess up. Religion puts limitation to God without us realizing it.

This is why the Born Again Experience is so vital for us to understand. It is through the Born Again Experience that we can have the “Great I AM” dwelling in us. **Religion thinks and teaches us that God is up there looking down on us, when in reality He lives IN us.** Through a Relationship with God and having Communion with God we can begin to experience and have access to the True Power of the “Great I AM”

### In Closing

**Once you “know” who the “Great I AM” is, and begin to have an experience with Him through the Holy Spirit then you will discover your True IDENTITY; and your life will be defined by the “Great I AM”.**

Tomorrow is Fathers Day, and maybe there are some of you here that didn't have a great relationship with your father, or maybe you did, or maybe your father has passed away or maybe you never knew your father. But God has sent me here today to tell you none of that really matters.

Though tomorrow we celebrate our earthly fathers whether they be good fathers or not, today I want us to celebrate our Heavenly Father who loved us SO MUCH that He gave us His only begotten Son, so that ALL those that believe in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Because today your Heavenly Father wants you to know that you are somebody, you are valued, you are loved and He wants to have a Relationship with you. He wants to fix and improve His Relationship with you because He truly loves you. What if God could write us a letter and tell us how He feels about us, what would that letter say...lets listen and watch!!! **Play video clip of: “Love Letter from God”**

### Altar Call

There isn't a single tear that you've cried that God hasn't held in His Hand. God knows the road you have traveled to get here. He doesn't care what you've done in the past; he cares about the here and now. Will you today give God an expression of your Love for Him by coming forward and boldly declaring that you love Him. I truly believe that would be the best Fathers Day present we could give our Father in Heaven/Almighty God. May God Bless you all!!!

**Never forget who “I AM” is in your life!!!**

**Final Song: “I am” by Mark Shultz.**