

I Am

I've always been amazed that Jesus speaks so very clearly about who He is.

He says, "I am the Son of God, I do everything that I hear from the Father."

Jesus says in John's Gospel, "I am the light of the world, I am the door for the sheep to come in." He says, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, I am the Resurrection and the Life." In other words; Jesus makes no question about His origins and for what He came.

Two other names that John uses are Jesus Christ and Christ Jesus. Jesus calls himself the Son of God and the Son of men.

He tells us that Father, Son, and Spirit are one, not in one body, but in one being.

Identity

I personally enjoy naming Jesus' birth in discovering His identity. The angel visits Mary and says she will become pregnant without the intervention of a man. She becomes pregnant by the Spirit of God. Here we see that Jesus is begotten by the spoken word and the working of the Spirit. Here human readiness is crucial! Mary receives the words from the angel telling her that she will become pregnant with the Son of God. She accepts these words immediately. So Jesus comes from heaven and is born as a baby, as a human being. Just as the Father, Son and Spirit are one, in this instance now the word, the Spirit and the woman Mary are also one.

Your new birth is actually just such a process. You are human, but the Spirit of God brings the life of God into you. This is how your true "I am" is born. As you intended. Your "inner I am" formed by the words of the Holy Spirit, in your spirit, affects your "outer I am;" your soul and body. Together with God I AM and your "inner I am," your "outer I am" forms the person who represents God's Kingdom on Earth. Like Jesus, you are a child of God, an heir.

Moses

In the OT we see beautiful examples of men and women who are "begotten" by the Spirit. Moses had been called from birth to be a leader for his people. The enemy of the people of Israel wanted to prevent the coming of Moses. The enemy knew that Moses was going to deliver the people from slavery. We read in the OT how the pharaoh gives an order to kill all boys up to two years old.

Moses is miraculously saved and grows up in Pharaoh's palace. He is trained to be a strong leader. His destiny to lead a people can be recognized from childhood. Yet a big change must take place in him. Moses must learn to act from the speaking of God rather than from his own strength. As soon as he himself intervenes to save his people, things go completely wrong. In frustration, he kills a slave driver and has to flee to save his own life.

It was not until 40 years after this event that Moses met God in a very strange way. A bush is on fire, but the flames do not burn the bush. Moses is curious and examines what is going on. It turns out to be God who wants to show Moses his true identity. That actually starts with telling who God is. God says His name here: I AM. A discussion arises about Moses' destiny. However, Moses does not believe anything that God says. God goes to great lengths to convince Moses that God ("I am with you") will go with you and work through Moses. Moses lets God know that he does not feel capable. His "inner I am" did not feel worthy and capable. His old memories are deeply rooted in his "inner I am". Disappointment and perhaps shame have blocked his true calling. He had already tried to be the savior of his people. They didn't listen to him then, so why now? In the end, Moses believes the words of God and surrenders.

We see this example in many places in the OT. God is looking for someone after His heart, a person through whom He can bring to earth what is in heaven. Someone who hears the word, trusts God



and believes Him. This creates a spiritual amalgamation of God I AM and the human being who will see who he or she really is.

Through the circle of life, seeing with new eyes and new birth through the word of God, your "inner I am" is changed. You receive the identity that has been given to you from God and that changes your "outer I am" equally.

Peter

In the NT we see how Jesus calls Peter. Peter as a fisherman learned through hard work to land the catch and to provide for his family. Jesus soon says when Peter begins to follow Jesus that Peter is going to become a fisher of men. Twice we see that Peter does not catch anything. The first time was after Jesus called Peter to follow Him.

Peter didn't catch anything all night. Jesus stands on the side and tells Peter to throw the net on the other side. As a result, there is a big catch. The nets are almost tearing due to the large quantity of fish. Peter learns to listen to Jesus. He learns to listen to the voice of Jesus that results in a great harvest. Jesus, the word of God, the I AM is speaking. Peter, the receiver of the word, is inspired and it is confirmed with a great harvest.

Sometimes we see that the recipient is renamed. Such as Abram who will later be called Abraham. Peter who was first called Simon is given the name Peter. Jesus says that Peter (Rock) is meant to be a foundation for the first church to emerge. He also says that Peter and his friends are given authority. They even receive the keys to the Kingdom.

The second time when Peter fished all night again without catching anything, is after the death of Jesus on the cross. Peter is dazed by everything that has happened. He, the strong rock, who knew everything and wanted to act immediately, had completely screwed up when Jesus was taken captive. He walks around with a great sense of the guilt of a traitor. He was well aware that Jesus had said that Peter would deny belonging to Jesus. When Jesus told Peter that he would betray Him, Peter, tough as he was, denied that and declared he would rather give his life than betray Jesus. As danger to his own life approached, Peter betrayed his master and that was why Peter turned the others and himself to his old profession: fisherman!

But Jesus was not done with Peter yet. He got another chance. Peter had caught nothing and a "stranger" on the bank called Peter to cast the nets on the other side. Peter listened and again there was a great catch. The nets did not tear this time. How beautiful the symbolism is: "The net was fragile when Peter was not ready for the task. But when he found that it was not about his own strength, but about the Word of Jesus in him, he was ready for the job! The net was strong.

The meal, bread and wine, which was offered to him the night before the betrayal, was replaced by bread and fish in the early morning. The beautiful symbolism continues in this. Peter teaches that through the blood of Jesus is forgiveness and restoration. Then comes the power to practice the calling, the fishing of people.

A few days later we see the first church in Jerusalem being started as a result of the speech of this new "I am" Peter. Three thousand "fish" enter the Kingdom.

Paul

We see the same story happening with an opponent of the first church. A man named Saul is trained in Jewish law and teachings. A natural born leader, he quickly leads the persecution of the followers of Jesus.

On the road to Damascus, God speaks to Saul. The Spirit comes to this fundamentalist persecutor of the early Christians. He becomes blind. He cannot see for days and is confused about the voice from heaven. He had been completely wrong.

God's Spirit leads Ananias, a prophet who was actually quite afraid, to go to Saul. The word from heaven for Saul is brought by this brave prophet. Paul's eyes open, his spirit is born again, and soon Saul is given the name Paul and the calling for his life becomes clear. He will be called to kings and leaders of the Jewish people and to nations outside of the Jewish people.

Here we see a clear example of how God reveals Himself by giving people different eyes. The assumption that the God of Israel was only a Covenant God to Israel turned out to be incorrect. It was time to change that. He was God for all nations on the earth.

Inner I am

In your own life you are directed by your inner self, by your spirit which is connected with God's Spirit or by your soul which is your outer self.

Your view of the world around you is determined by how this "inner I am" is formed. The needs of this outer I am govern your outer actions. Is the need for recognition, for love, for appreciation very strong? Then your "outer person" will do everything to get that. Is your "outer I am" sick with pain, rejection, or hatred? Then that will be visible in your "outer I am". Despite the desire to live well, it is difficult to sustain. If you seek God's revelation of I AM and you meet Him, His Kingdom will be revealed in your "inner I am." Your inner I am, as a loved, valuable person, will direct the outer I am, and your outer actions will be loving and valuable.

In the second part we will discover five themes about what God intended for us!