

**Connecting Through the Word**  
**Jesus, The Great I Am**  
**John 8:48-59**

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<sup>48</sup> *The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?"*

<sup>49</sup> *Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me.*

<sup>50</sup> *Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge.*

<sup>51</sup> *Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death."*

<sup>52</sup> *The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.'*

<sup>53</sup> *Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?"*

<sup>54</sup> *Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.'*

<sup>55</sup> *But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word.*

<sup>56</sup> *Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad."*

<sup>57</sup> *So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?"*

<sup>58</sup> *Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."*

<sup>59</sup> *So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.*

Jesus proclaim Himself to be Jehovah! The Great I Am!  
Jesus Christ claimed to be the "I AM." It is the personal name of the God of the Old Testament.

Remember Moses at the burning bush.

**Exodus 3:5-6**

*Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.*

**Exodus 3:13-14**

*Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"*

On several occasions it is recorded that Jesus used the "I AM" formula in attesting to His deity. He claimed to be the LORD God, Jehovah, Yahweh.

The greatest of all the names for the Lord Jesus Christ is the "I AM."

**I Am**

Not I was

Not I will be

But I Am... Present Tense – Right Now!

I Am whatever you need in your life!

You fill in the blank!

In John 8 when Jesus said, "Before Abraham was, I Am", He claim to be deity! He claimed be Yahweh, Jehovah!

That's why they tried to stone Him.

John's Gospel is the only Gospel that records the seven I Am statements of Jesus!

**Are You Hungry for something real?**

**Jesus says to you,  
I Am the Bread of Life**

**John 6:35**

*Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."*

**John 6:48**

*I am the bread of life.*

**John 6:51**

*I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."*

He is the provision and provider of eternal and abundant life. As bread sustains physical life, so Christ offers and sustains spiritual life.

**The Bread of God's Word**

**Matthew 4:4**

*But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."*

**Are you Lost in the Darkness?**

**Jesus says to you:  
I Am the Light of the World**

**John 8:12**

*Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

**John 9:5**

*As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."*

**A light dispels fear that the darkness hides.**

**A light reveals the obstacles in our path.**

**Proverbs 4:19**

*The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble.*

**A light gives hope at the end of a dark tunnel**

**Psalm 119:105**

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

**The Light reveals the dirt, the sin in our lives.**

**1 John 1:5-7**

*This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.*

**Jesus is the Light we need in this dark world today!**

**Are you insecure looking for protection?**

**Jesus says to you,**

**I Am the Door**

**John 10:7**

*So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep."*

**John 10:9**

*I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.*

Jesus was talking about sheep in a fold. That's where the sheep were kept at night to protect them from the predators and the thieves that would destroy them.

The thief climbs in another way. John 10:1  
He comes to steal, kill and destroy. John 10:10

Jesus as the door:  
The shepherd would lay down across the entrance.

Gives protection to the sheep.  
Gives entrance into the fold of salvation and safety.

**Do you need loving tender care?**

**Jesus says to you,**

**I Am the Good Shepherd****John 10:11**

*I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.*

**John 10:14**

*I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,*

In the Old Testament the sheep had to die for the shepherd.  
The sheep was sacrificed on the altar of judgement.

Jesus, the Lamb of God, becomes the Shepherd who gave His life for the sheep.

If you want to know how much God loves and cares for you when you think no one else does, remember Jesus the Good Shepherd who died for you!

In John 9 the blind man who had been healed had been cast out of the synagogue! That's when Jesus gives this discourse!

**Do you need the miracle of a new life?**

**Jesus says to you,**

**I Am the Resurrection and the Life****John 11:25**

*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,*

The Bible says we are dead and can't save ourselves.

**Ephesians 2:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> *And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,*

<sup>2</sup> *in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,*

<sup>3</sup> *among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.*

<sup>4</sup> *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,*

<sup>5</sup> *even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),*

<sup>6</sup> *and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,*

<sup>7</sup> *that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

**Are you confused about life and eternity?**  
**Jesus says to you,**

**I Am the Way, And the Truth, and the Life**

**John 14:6**

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

Confused about religion? Which one is the right one?

Confused about life? What is it all about?

Confused about everything?

That was the condition of the people in Laodicea

**Colossians 2:1-4**

*For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

*I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments.*

Jesus is the source of all truth and knowledge about God.

**Do you want to know the secret of living the fruitful and fulfilling Christian life?**

**Jesus says to you:**

**I Am the True Vine**

**John 15:1**

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.*

**John 15:5**

*I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and*

*I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*

Do you feel weak and without strength to live out your faith?

**Paul learned.**

**2 Corinthians 12:8-10 (ESV)**

*Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 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 of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

Oswald Chambers speaks of feeding the life of God in you.

A vine is hidden within the branches.

The vine produces the life and the fruit of the branches

But a vine has to have a source of water and food.

That source is the Word of God!

**John 15:7-8**

*If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*