

The I AM

Introduction

There are many “re” type words in the Bible ...
renewal, restoration, repentance,
reconciliation, reformation, resurrection.

These all imply a recapturing of an original
created purpose that God had for mankind.

A purpose that ...

>was lost in- Garden of Eden w/fall of man.

>Jesus Christ came to restore to mankind.

Creation itself is laboring- waiting for restoration-

**Rom 8:22 ... the whole creation groans
and suffers the pains of childbirth
together until now.**

If you are an environmentalist the best thing you
can do for the environment is to step into
your divine destiny as- son/daughter of God

There is nothing that causes the creation more
agony than the curse that fell on mankind.

Importance of Resurrection

Easter- good to remind ourselves of the
importance of resurrection.

Resurrection- something died and is alive again.

Resurrection is very important to our faith ...

1 Cor 15:13–14

**13 But if there is no resurrection of the
dead, not even Christ has been raised;
14 and if Christ has not been raised,
then our preaching is vain, your faith
also is vain.**

There is no message of hope w/o resurrection.

Matthew 16:24–25 (NASB95)

24Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

25“For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. (Mat 19.30)

The cross is a very necessary part of the journey for you and I as Christians.

Without- death of Christ there is no resurrection.

Without the denying of our own self-life, we will never experience the resurrection life of Christ.

But too often we lead people to believe that the goal of the Christian life is sacrifice.

Sacrifice is essential, but its purpose is to get us to the other side of the cross- to resurrection life.

It is an awareness of God’s ultimate purpose for our lives, to walk in- power of resurrected life, that will lead us to restrain our behavior in order to experience the power of that life.

I do not look forward to the hope for sacrifice and dying to myself- I look forward to resurrection.

I Am

Jn 8:58 Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.”

I AM- before time was- I AM existed.

Jesus made seven “I AM” statements- I AM the ...

>bread of life" (John 6:35,48,51).

>light of the world" (John 8:12).

>door of the sheep"(John 10:7,9).

>good shepherd" (John 10:11,14).

>way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).

>true vine" (John 15:1,5).

>resurrection, and the life" (John 11:25).

Jesus did not say I am able to resurrect- He said-
the I AM- is the resurrection.

**Resurrection is not an event, it is a
person- the I AM- Jesus Christ.**

Resurrection- key to our faith- not just that ...

>Jesus Christ was resurrected from- dead,

>we will be resurrected when we die, but
we have resurrection life living in us.

As it talks about in Rom 8.11 the same Spirit that
raised Christ Jesus from the dead living in us.

The Death of Lazarus

Jn 11.1-3, 6-7

**Jn 11:16 Therefore Thomas, who is
called Didymus, said to his fellow
disciples, "Let us also go, so that we
may die with Him."**

This was not a very hopeful statement- Thomas
was struggling with lack of hope.

Have you ever wrestled with loss of hope ...

>does He really care

>does He know I even exist

>no hope for- finances, marriage, healing

God wants to resurrect hope in our hearts and
give us faith and courage in our situations.

**We are a people of hope who carry a
message of hope for a world in
desperate need of hope.**

We do not have the right to despair/reason to
despair- if we believe- message of the KofG.

(despair-sin/God is restoring all things to Himself)

Jn 11:17

**Jn 11:21 Martha then said to Jesus,
“Lord, if You had been here, my brother
would not have died.**

Jesus delayed in going to Bethany and seemingly did not answer their prayers for their brother.

Have you ever experienced delays in- prayers ...

>I will never get married

>I will never have a baby

>I will never be healed

We struggle w/what to do with delayed prayers.

**God’s delays in answering our prayers
do not mean that He has not heard or
that He will not answer.**

God wants us to see His resurrection life even in the delays that we face.

That God would resurrect our hope in His divine purpose for whatever situation we face.

That delays would not cause us to doubt the goodness/greatness of God.

Jn 11.22-24

Jn 11:25–26

**25 Jesus said to her, “I am the
resurrection and the life; he who
believes in Me will live even if he dies,
26 and everyone who lives and believes
in Me will never die. Do you believe
this?”**

Idea of resurrection is not just a matter of information- do we believe in resurrection life?

Do we believe we walk in the power of resurrected life- God is alive in us today?

And that God wants to work miracles in our lives
and He wants to work miracles through us.

**Because Christ died and lived, we are
alive with His resurrection life today.**

That resurrection life begins when we have an
encounter w/Living God/His life is birthed in us.

In Lk 24 several women- Sunday morning, went
to the tomb where Jesus had been buried.

They wondered how they would move the stone
from in front of the entrance- too big/heavy.

When- got there- God had already moved- stone-

**The stone was rolled away from the
door, not to permit Christ to come out,
but to enable the disciples to go in. Peter
Marshall**

God can move the stones in our lives that are too
big for us to do anything about.

God has removed the stone so you/I can step into
the reality of eternal life today- NOW.

Jn 11.32, 39-40

John 11:43-44 (NASB95)

**⁴³When He had said these things, He
cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus,
come forth."**

**⁴⁴The man who had died came forth,
bound hand and foot with wrappings,
and his face was wrapped around with a
cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him,
and let him go."**

If God can defeat death- raise a man dead for
four days- He can do anything for us as well.

This story speaks of the resurrection hope you
and I carry as sons/daughters of God.

It does not mean ...

- >we will not experience difficulties and
- >there will be times God does not answer our prayers the way we would like ...

But in Christ we have-eternal hope of resurrection

On the road to Emmaus

Lk 24.13-18, 25-27, 30-32

These two men failed to recognize that Jesus, the hope of the world, was walking with them perhaps in their darkest hour.

Have there been times in our lives that we failed to recognize that Jesus was traveling with us? He was right there but we failed to recognize Him. It is interesting that it was in the breaking of bread that their eyes were opened to see Jesus.

If we want to see Jesus in our everyday life we need to put ourself into environments where Christ can reveal Himself to us ...

- >in times of personal/corporate prayer
- >In the reading of the Word
- >during the taking of communion
- >Encounter God- bath in worship

We need to put ourselves in places where God can make Himself known to us.

Take time to look for God in your situation.

Conclusion

In Lk 19 Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem because they had missed His visitation.

They did not recognize Him as their Messiah.

Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.

They did not recognize the presence of God.

We must also learn to recognize God's presence
in everyday life situations ...

- >what is He doing in our lives
- >what is He saying to us
- >how can we partner with Him

We must understand we carry resurrection life ...

- >His Spirit is alive in us,
- >we have been adopted into the family of God
- >we are seated in heavenly places w/Christ

**Easter says you can put truth in a grave,
but it won't stay there. Clarence W. Hall**

Nothing will keep Christ in the grave and there is
nothing that can stop a child of God

that understand what they have in Christ.

Challenge