

## I Am: Part 3

### Pastor James Bell

John 8:58 NLT

58 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I AM!"

I Am willing

I Am the Messiah

I Am able

I Am with you always

I Am the bread of life

I Am the light of the world

I Am the good shepherd

I Am the door

I Am the resurrection and life

I Am the way, the truth, and the life

I Am the true vine

I Am the Alpha and Omega

I Am Coming soon

Genesis 22:13–14 NLT

13 Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son. 14 Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means "the LORD will provide"). To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

We have heard this story time after time, but the truth does not change. Instead we must be reminded often of His continuous call to know Him anew and refreshed. Hearing of His unfailing love and persistency of pursuing us so that we may know him. Paul stated:

Philippians 3:10 NLT

10 I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead.

The greek word for know is ginosko and it means to have an understanding. To gain or receive knowledge. But if we look at the next key word in this verse we will see the word experience. The word experience is not found in the original translation but

within this translation of the New Living Translation that we are reading from, we can see what kind of knowledge that Paul was referring to. A knowing of Christ and the mighty power that raised Him from the dead. A knowing that is experienced. This carries a connotation of intimate knowledge. To experience is to encounter directly through active participation. An experiential fellowship of intimacy. Just the opposite of this is to perceive or have an understanding from passive information. Or we could simply say an intellectual knowledge. Unfortunately this is a standard for Christianity. This isn't something that just started. This same sadness can be found all throughout scripture.

If we were to exchange a few words from Paul's statement it would read this way: I desire to experience the revelation of "I Am" by the work of the Holy Spirit. Paul's statement isn't meant to motivate us but a call draw near. If your spouse or child desires to know you deeper do you shun them away? If we deny this to the ones that love us then ultimately we are saying that my love for you is conditional.

A revelation is a something that is hidden that becomes revealed. Look at what the Lord tells us in Proverbs:

Proverbs 2:1-4 NLT

1 My child, listen to what I say, and treasure my commands. 2 Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding. 3 Cry out for insight, and ask for understanding. 4 Search for them as you would for silver; seek them like hidden treasures.

Does it get any plainer than this? But you know what the hard part is? This requires us put in work. We as a people want something but not willing to work for it.

We are first commanded to listen. This means we must be still and silent. Next we are commanded to treasure His commandments. These commandments are not partial to the ones we like. This is the entirety of His word. This is where so many cannot come to grips with. And this is just the first verse.

Tune your ears to wisdom and concentrate on understanding. Because the first verse is so critical to knowledge we are given the same instructions in verse 2. When we tune something we are adjusting the frequency of something. To tune brings back into alignment. To tune brings clarity. How about when we move the position of our radio to bring clarity of the station. Or when we move around to get a better phone signal. This is no different spiritually. We must move our positions to hear with clarity the word of the Lord.

Gaining revelation requires that we cry out for this understanding. We must search for it like a hidden treasure. If something is hidden then will we ever find it by looking in the same places. It's hidden for a reason. Or we could say that it is reserved. But who is it reserved for?

Psalm 25:14 TPT

14 There's a private place reserved for the lovers of God, where they sit near him and receive the revelation-secrets of his promises.

All four verses we read in Proverbs 2 is the experience part that Paul was speaking about in the book of Philippians. Once we are spiritually active in our pursuit of I Am we then come to verse 5 of Proverbs:

Proverbs 2:5 NLT

5 Then you will understand what it means to fear the LORD, and you will gain knowledge of God.

Then you will understand. What will we understand? The fear of The LORD. Do you notice the capitalization of the word LORD? LORD is translated as the same name of Yahweh. Or in reference to our series, "I Am". Our active and constant pursuit of walking out the commandments of listening and treasuring brings us to a place of reverence of who He is. But not just who He is in general but who He is to us. Who He is to us is who He desires to be to all but His covenant is reserved for those who fear him. (Are you tracking with me?)

So now this brings us back to the story of Yahweh Yireh.

Genesis 22:2–10 NLT

2 "Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you." 3 The next morning Abraham got up early. He saddled his donkey and took two of his servants with him, along with his son, Isaac. Then he chopped wood for a fire for a burnt offering and set out for the place God had told him about. 4 On the third day of their journey, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 5 "Stay here with the donkey," Abraham told the servants. "The boy and I will travel a little farther. We will worship there, and then we will come right back." 6 So Abraham placed the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac's shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them walked on together, 7 Isaac turned to

Abraham and said, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "We have the fire and the wood," the boy said, "but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?" 8 "God will provide a sheep for the burnt offering, my son," Abraham answered. And they both walked on together. 9 When they arrived at the place where God had told him to go, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. Then he tied his son, Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. 10 And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice.

There are a few key things that we must highlight from these scriptures. For some of us we have spoken about these things before and needing reminding.

God gave a commandment for Abraham to leave his current position and travel to place that was a three day journey. Simply because Abraham cut firewood means that his actions of obedience was deliberate. There is no fire to consume the sacrifice on an altar without wood. Everything needed for a sacrifice was supplied from his heart of obedience.

1. To obey Him instantly
2. To obey Him even if it doesn't make sense
3. To obey Him even if it hurts
4. To obey Him even if we don't see a benefit
5. To obey to completion

- 
1. Abraham obeyed instantly. (Early the next morning)
  2. Abraham obeyed when it didn't make sense. (God had already told Him that Issac is the one that his descendants would be established by)
  3. Abraham obeyed even if it hurt. (Abraham was reminded that Issac was his only son. Imagine giving up your only child)
  4. Abraham obeyed even when he didn't see a benefit. (In what way would his obedience bring a benefit to him?)
  5. Abraham obeyed to completion.

Completion is achieved when we our will becomes that of "I Am"

Look back at verse 7 and 8  
Genesis 22:7-8 NLT

7 Isaac turned to Abraham and said, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "We have the fire and the wood," the boy said, "but where is the sheep for the burnt

offering?” 8 “God will provide a sheep for the burnt offering, my son,” Abraham answered. And they both walked on together.

Not everyone will understand our obedience because they are on the outside looking in. But Abraham gave the reassurance that God will provide. Abraham wasn't looking for God to do something different because God had already given him what he needed. He only needed to walk it out; TO COMPLETION! What has the “I Am” called you to that you are struggling with in the five areas we discussed?

Genesis 22:11–12 NLT

11 At that moment the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Yes,” Abraham replied. “Here I am!” 12 “Don't lay a hand on the boy!” the angel said. “Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son.”

Notice that even within Abraham's obedience he continued to listen and tune his ear to hear the word of the Lord. God is intentional in everything He does and we must remain in a posture of listening while we are obeying.

For now I know that you truly fear God. How did this become known? Through obedience! If we look back at verse 1.

Genesis 22:1 NLT

1 Some time later, God tested Abraham's faith. “Abraham!” God called. “Yes,” he replied. “Here I am.”

God test was to see if Abraham loved God more than the promise of God. Did Abraham love the “I Am” more than his own child. When God calls us to something do we have to rationalize or compromise the command to come near?

Genesis 22:13–14 NLT

13 Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son. 14 Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means “the LORD will provide”). To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”

Abraham experienced a revelation of God because he feared God. He experienced a facet of “I Am” that he had never known before. Because Abraham was willing and obedient God revealed Himself in the way that most people are denied.

In Closing:

Genesis 22:5 NLT

5 “Stay here with the donkey,” Abraham told the servants. “The boy and I will travel a little farther. We will worship there, and then we will come right back.”

We see that Abraham was going to worship but what had God commanded him to do? To sacrifice his son. So I want to close with a profound statement that God revealed to me.

Revelation does not come without the Fear of God and a sacrifice doesn't come without obedience.

Let me pray with you today!