

I Am

I experienced an incident the other day that got me questioning the church, yet again. There is a large piece of me that just wants to sit in the back and do nothing and know nobody. If I do nothing then I can't find trouble within the church. Yes, I love to question things. It's me! Secondly, I wish I didn't know a soul. You can't discover their flaws, warts, and inconsistencies if you don't know them. The word hypocrite has no meaning if you don't have an opportunity to experience it. Why go to church then? I love what church represents. It can be a great place filled with wonderful souls. I love the music and the preaching. Then there are people.

Then there are sinners too. Yes, they come to church looking for redemption. There are those who think they are holy in church. I'm not sure they are looking for redemption. Some will refute that by saying they have already found it. They are clean now. To me, once that happens, it's a slippery slope towards what I call a spiritual mess. In my new book called "From the outside in." I pose the question "*do we receive God or does He receive us?*" It's probably a chicken and egg thing. Yet, the vast majority of Bible verses say that we are in God. The Spirit dwells within us, but God the Father is in heaven. We rest in Christ His Son. Holy or sinner, we are to find ourselves within God, it is Christ that lives in me because I died to sin.

The incident? Let's just say that someone felt that God can be commanded. That within a timeline we can call on God to receive His word. If you don't get a word then God clearly is not using you in prophetic prayer. It just astounds me! Who corners the market on God jumping when we call? Why do we think God is obligated to respond? Oh, sure there are a few verses. Yet, many a person has died while screaming "God save me." Should God respond if you scream "oh God" in bed? How many Christians have died in the name of the Lord? Did they pray at

some time in their lives for a long life? How long is God obligated to let you live? This whole attitude annoys me.

What does God have to say? Jerimiah 33:3 “*Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.*” Matthew 7:7 “*Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.*” There are a ton of verses asking us to ask. Seek and ye shall find. I could go on and on. Yet, I know it’s not that simple. The argument over the blind man in the Bible is interesting. God allowed him to be blind since birth. Yet, eventually, God healed the man. A lame man went 38 years. A bleeding woman went 12 years. Yet, Jesus said what business is it of yours if John lives forever or dies? Meaning, God is in control and we are not.

People look at the list of gifts from God and pick the ones that appeal to them. Yes, those that appeal are probably yours. Yet, are they? I would pick teacher, and helper but I rank higher in prophetic and giving. I don’t claim to be prophetic in the slightest. I give a bunch but it does not drive me like teaching. Often, I have found that God gives us gifts for a time. We tend to make those gifts out staple. It’s who we are as a person. People say “I am prophetic.” What they should say is God gave me the ability to be prophetic. All the time or when God needs you? In prayer we tell God that we need Him. Is he obligated? What if He said “no” or there is silence? Did you do something wrong or is God doing something different that does not include you?

My beef is in the phrase “I am.” In Jewish past history that is a phrase that meant Yahweh. It’s a forbidden name for God. Jewish people revered God so much they felt it unhonourable to even say His name. Yet, we have zero problem saying I am prophetic. I am a Christian. I am holy or a saint. Yet, are you? I suspect if we took out “I am” from our vocabulary we might be better people. Possibly better Christians.

Some will claim that it's all in the fruit of our works. They will claim that works don't save us but they can tell we are saved by our works. It's back to the chicken and egg thing. I know Christians do name it and claim it. They remind God of His promises. Yet, they forget who is "I am." God called Moses. God picked David. God called Joseph and He called Mary. Jesus called the Twelve. Believe it or not but the great "I am" called you. He is under no obligation to be called! You don't own God! That does not mean He does not save. That He does not give free gifts or grace. It does not mean God doesn't want prayer and worship. Does He need sweet savory scents from sacrifice? No, but He likes it. He loves prayer and requests. He loves to love, give grace, and miracles. What God does not love or like is pride. Why do you say "I am" when you are clearly not the great "I Am?" Pride?