

## God operates in the now and only operates in the now.

Moses was chased out of Egypt when he was 40 years old by Pharaoh. He returned at the age of 80 to deliver the people of Israel from Pharaoh. After God had told him to deliver the Israelites, Moses asked God a question:

### Exodus 3:13–15

<sup>13</sup> But Moses protested, “If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ they will ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what should I tell them?”

<sup>14</sup> God replied to Moses, “I Am Who I Am.<sup>[a]</sup> Say this to the people of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.” <sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: Yahweh,<sup>[b]</sup> the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.

This is my eternal name,  
my name to remember for all generations.

The Egyptians had many gods – god of Nile, god of moon, god of Sun, god of the crops. Each of these gods had names. When Moses went before them, he wanted a name for God that transcended these gods. God gave him the name “I Am” to use. That name transcended crops, moons, the sun and fertility. “I Am” created them all and will be around after they are all destroyed.

Jesus also called himself “I AM”.

### John 8:54–59

<sup>54</sup> Jesus answered, “If I want glory for myself, it doesn’t count. But it is my Father who will glorify me. You say, ‘He is our God,<sup>[a]</sup>’ <sup>55</sup> but you don’t even know him. I know him. If I said otherwise, I would be as great a liar as you! But I do know him and obey him. <sup>56</sup> Your father Abraham rejoiced as he looked forward to my coming. He saw it and was glad.”

<sup>57</sup> The people said, “You aren’t even fifty years old. How can you say you have seen Abraham?<sup>[b]</sup>”

<sup>58</sup> Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I Am!<sup>[c]</sup>” <sup>59</sup> At that point they picked up stones to throw at him. But Jesus was hidden from them and left the Temple.

When Jesus said “I am” he used God’s eternal name and claimed to be God. “I Am” transcends time and space.

Jesus says “I AM” 7 times in John.

“I am the Bread of Life” (John. 6:35)  
“I am the Light of the world” (John. 8:12)  
“I am the Door” (John. 10:9)  
“I am the Good Shepherd”(John. 10:11)  
“I am the Resurrection and the Life” (John. 11:25)  
“I am the Way, Truth and the Life” (John. 14:26)  
“I am the True Vine” (John. 15:1).

He is the God of our hopes and dreams, God of our marriages, God of our past, God of our future and the only god we ever need. He is the transcendent God.

## QUESTIONS:

1. Have you been looking at God as an ancient God of an archaic book (The Bible)?
2. Have you wondered if God was present or powerful enough for your situations and problems?

### I AM communicates his intimacy.

The Jewish people of the time didn't experience God like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They only knew stories. One man could go into the temple once a year to meet with God.

### Hebrews 4:16 (New King James Version)

<sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

God was a God behind a veil. He was a God who thundered on the mountain tops.

“I AM” signified that God wanted relationship with his people.

## 1. The Significance of “I AM” as God’s Eternal Name

Psalms 119:90

Your faithfulness extends to every generation,  
as enduring as the earth you created.

Hebrews 11:6 NKJV

But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Faith operates today! One of the traps of prophecy is that God will do something in the future but isn't doing it now. You don't have to wait till tomorrow.

God is – loving, patient, powerful, present, moving, is acting on your behalf.

God is powerful enough to overcome all my enemies, move all my mountains, heal all my diseases, and slay all my giants. He is not just the God of history and prophecy. He is the God of now.

### **Hebrews 13:5 and 8**

*Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever.

I AM means that God is focused on now.

**The only time you can relate to a person is NOW.**

**Pray, worship, love, forgive, do right thing NOW.**

We can live in the now if we reconcile our past and stop worrying about our future.

## **2. Exposing and Defeating the Enemies of Now Living**

One of the devil's greatest tools to defeat us and keep us away from the now is regret, shame and condemnation.

Do you ever wish you had a time machine to send us back to ourselves so we could slap us and say "don't do that"?

We don't have a time machine, but we do have the blood of Jesus that covers our sins and past.

The blood of Jesus turned Peter, who was a coward into one of the greatest preachers of all time. It turned Paul, a Christian killer, into writer of most of the New Testament. It turned Mary Magdalene who had 7 demons, into one of the greatest followers of Christ of all time. It turned Jacob (deceiver) into Israel (one who wrested with God. – Israel.

Take your past and turn it into something good.

# PAST

Philippians 3:13

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead.

Romans 8:1

*There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,<sup>[a]</sup> who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

## Difference about shame and guilt

Shame – bad person, flawed identity.

Guilt – messed up

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Psalms 103 says God removes our sins as far as the east is from the west.

He'll turn your mess into a ministry.

You are God's favorite.

Zechariah 3:1–5

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. <sup>2</sup> And the LORD said to Satan, "**The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?**"

<sup>3</sup> Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel.

<sup>4</sup> Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, "Take away the filthy garments from him." And to him He said, "See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes."

<sup>5</sup> And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head."

So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the LORD stood by.

Every time the devil reminds you of your sins, praise God for the blood of Jesus. Unforgiveness throws a lasso around the past and won't let you move on. **Forgiveness doesn't make them right, it just makes you free.**

**Some people just can't get over their past – even if it's good. Era worship.**

That's called the "Uncle Rico syndrome" from Napoleon Dynamite. He was a quarterback that kept living in the past

Some people go back to the good past because of their bad present. They have no hope of a good future so they go back to the once upon a time moments. They are always talking about what God used to do but not letting him do anything right now. What is God doing right now?

Elvis is dead, Star Trek has been canceled, Mick Jagger is 66, the Beegees broke up. It's time to move on.

God is always doing his best right now.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Are you living in the past?
2. Do you have unforgiveness that haunts your present and future?
3. Do you see yourself as Christ sees you?

**FUTURE**

The devil keeps us out of the now through fear of the future – worry. Worry is a Godless perspective on life. It negatively shapes our finances, family, health, and world view.

12 men went into the Promised Land. Ten said we can't because of fear. All they could see were the giants. Two said we can because of faith. They say God there. Fear is reality minus God. Faith is reality plus God.

The devil wants to take the failures of the past and project them into your future.

He's greater than any terrorist. Greater than any disease. Greater than the stock market. Greater than the unemployment rate.

**My God shall supply all my needs according to his riches in Christ Jesus. Phil 4:19**

Today is the day of salvation. Stop fretting over the past and worrying over the future. Don't miss the best God has for you.

Philippians 3:13–15;

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,<sup>14</sup> I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.

Matthew 6:25–34 – don't worry

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

Psalms 16:8

I have set the LORD always before me;

Because *He is* at my right hand I shall not be moved.

QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think God has a good future for you?
2. Are you letting your past shape your future?
3. Are you eaten up with fear and worry?

### **3. What is the Holy Spirit saying to me through this message?**

Because you don't have the promise of tomorrow and you can't go backwards in time, you must operate in the now. There is no time machine that can move you in the past or in the future. What you do now shapes your future. God can heal you from your past. You have to live in the now, not worried about past or the future.

Are you wasting your "nows" by dwelling in the past or hoping for the future? Living for the future is like walking toward the horizon. The walking never ends and you never arrive. Stop living in the past and future. Live in the now and experience a great relationship with "I AM".

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Are you wasting your “nows” by dwelling in the past or hoping for the future?**
- 2. What is God wanting to do in your life right now?**