The GREAT IMMERSION in "I AM"

# Stepping into the River of God



An immersion into Jesus' 7 profound "I AM" declarations to discover God's higher purposes and step into His greater life

Harvey L. Diamond

### THE GREAT IMMERSION IN "I AM" STEPPING INTO THE RIVER OF GOD

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Locking into intimacy with God to live in a state of unity with God

Possessing His identity and inheritance requires intentionality and vigilance

### God's inspiration and encouragement to us

### Our Heavenly Father has a great inheritance and greater-higher things for us to partake in

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9)

that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being *fruitful* in every good work and *increasing in the knowledge of God;* 11 *strengthened* with all might, according to *His glorious power,* for all patience and longsuffering with *joy;* 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be *partakers of the inheritance* of the saints in the light. (Colossians 1:10-12)

we are confident of *better things* concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation (Hebrews 6:9)

### The Holy Spirit strengthens us by the constant pour of God's love to bring great hope and encouragement to pursue what God has purposed and will fulfill through Christ

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. (Romans 5:5)

let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto *Jesus, the author and finisher* of our faith (Hebrews 12:1-2)

### God is inviting us to gain greater insight into a great reality with a host of great dynamics

"Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27)

### God offers us amazing dimensions of great grace to receive and realize the reality of His unshakable promises and Kingdom inheritance

Therefore, since *we are receiving a kingdom* which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear (Hebrews 12:28)

### God's Word offers us great words of encouragement to strengthen hope

I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:14)

### It is crucial to keep at the forefront of our mind the *first things* Jesus proclaims, *His great mission (amplifying Isaiah 61:1): Healing—Liberty—Vision*

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to *heal* the brokenhearted, To proclaim *liberty* to the captives And *recovery of sight to the blind*, To set at *liberty* those who are oppressed... (Luke 4:18)

### to make ready a people prepared for the Lord (Luke 1:17) bringing many sons to glory (Hebrews 2:10)

### NOTES

### I. Jesus makes some bold statements and shares key insights that are meant to have a profound impact and make a big difference in our life. These are four key statements:

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. *I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.* (John 10:10)

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (Matthew 6:33).

But the Helper, the *Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name,* He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. *Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.* (John 14:26-27)

These things I have spoken to you, *that in Me you may have peace*. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, *I have overcome the world*. (John 16:33)

- A. His goal is for us to know and relate with God in a new and greater way; to know with certainty the reality of God's great love constantly available and poured into our heart by the Holy Spirit that we live grateful for His grace, overcoming in life through Him, flowing in faith, in union with God.
- B. *His hope* is that we *experience His abundant life*, *"life in His name"* (John 20:30) and the *reality of His kingdom and its blessings*. So, He speaks of:
  - 1. The reality of the awesome dimensions of His identity, who He is and can be in us;
  - 2. The greatness of His leadership and benefits of experiencing His kingdom realities.
- C. Jesus knows the deep issues of our heart and gaps to be filled by His great love that we experience God's great blessings. So, He illustrates a common *conflict faced by two types of mindsets and encourages us* through the story of the Prodigal Son.
  - 1. One wastes his inheritance in ignorance through *wanton, worldly living.* The other is *unaware of the fullness of riches before him.*
  - 2. Neither one understands the true greatness of the father's love, nor the greater reality and potentiality of their relationship with their father to experience His intended "life more abundantly." They—and we—need a strengthened view and upgrade!
- D. God's aim is to strengthen our identity—which was created in His image and likeness—that it be refreshed and restored in Christ by the Holy Spirit that we experience His great love and the fullness of His shalom; peace, joy, freedom of soul, and "life more abundantly" that He has for us.
- E. This immersion will impact us to help us more fully *realize* and *receive* God's great love, true riches and promises. In addition, we will gain *keys to flow in God's great grace gifts* and experience His abundant overcoming *new life in Christ—life of the Holy Spirit.*

### **REVIEW—REFLECT—RESPOND**

How do you relate to the two sons? What impact would truly *living* in the fullness of these four scriptures have upon your life? II. SEE THE SEVEN PROFOUND "I AM" DECLARATIONS AS GOD'S DIVINE UPGRADE—A GRID OR FRAMEWORK AND IMMERSION INTO THE LORD'S GREAT LOVE AND NATURE TO KNOW MORE FULLY THE REALITY OF WHO HE IS IN US AND WHO WE CAN BECOME IN DYNAMIC UNION WITH HIM.



The seven "I AM" declarations *progressively illustrate* profound aspects of God's nature and expressions of His great love. They *substantiate the reality* that "*no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ*" (1 Corinthians 3:11). So, they reveal dynamic aspects of who Messiah Jesus is in us and who we can become in and through Him by His grace through faith. Therefore, being *immersed* in His identity of "I AM" can help us:

- > Know the constancy of God's love in greater ways, grow and walk in greater faith
- > Experience greater joy and peace and find more hope for victorious living
- > Find God's strength to overcome life's challenges, conflicts and pressures
- > Walk in Christ's redemptive graces and experience His restoration as God intended
- > Tap into a variety of resources within God's identity and DNA created in us
- > Grow through a variety of grace gifts created within God's identity in us
- > Discover a path towards God's *higher calling* we can advance towards
- > Flow in greater *rhythm* with our Heavenly Father, Holy Spirit, Messiah-Savior Jesus
- > Defeat the lies of Satan and the world to block spiritual identity theft
- > Advance the kingdom of God within and among us
- > Change our story and shift the trajectory of our life in a new and greater way

### REVIEW—REFLECT—RESPOND

> How do these benefits and values strengthen your hope in God?

# What would it mean to you to have the reality of each of these values present in your life? Write your answers. Then ask the Lord to enable you to *receive* the fullness of these values and dynamics as you go through this Great Immersion in "I AM"—in Him.

Know the constancy of God's love in greater ways, grow and walk in greater faith

Experience greater joy and peace and find more hope for victorious living

Find God's strength to overcome life's challenges, conflicts and pressures

Walk in Christ's redemptive graces and experience His restoration as God intended

Tap into a variety of *resources* within God's identity and DNA created in us

Grow through a variety of grace gifts created within God's identity in us

Discover a path towards God's *higher calling* we can advance towards

Flow in greater *rhythm* with our Heavenly Father, Holy Spirit, Messiah-Savior Jesus

Defeat the lies of Satan and the world to block spiritual identity theft

Advance the kingdom of God within and among us

Change our story and shift the trajectory of our life in a new and greater way

See the table on the next page, THE BIG PICTURE OF THE MANIFOLD BLESSINGS OF OUR IDENTITY IN "I AM." Ask the Lord to enable you to *experience* these blessings as you go through this Great Immersion in "I AM"—in Him. Breathe deep. Ask the Holy Spirit to stir your heart and flow in you as you are immersed in Hi great love. Let *expectancy* of real transformation grow in you!

### SEE THE BIG PICTURE OF THE MANIFOLD BLESSINGS OF OUR IDENTITY IN "I AM"

### I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

### Rhythm of being nurtured by God's love and truth to be inspired, encouraged, strengthened

Referencing life's basic nutrient and bread of life, pointing to God's Spirit and Word, love and truth Embracing God as our Creator and covenant provider of life-sustaining resources, joy and peace of soul Having your state of being effectively nurtured in the Lord (John 6; Genesis 2-3 dynamics) Experiencing the kingdom of God growing in you, nurtured by God's love and truth through faith

### I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

### Rhythm of being fueled by the Holy Spirit to be illuminated and empowered in His grace gifts

Referencing the life giving substance of the Holy Spirit, manifesting the love, grace and power of God Revitalizing and renewing life energy; illuminating truth, strengthening love, vision and clarity Having your state of being illuminated by the Lord (John 8-9; 1 John 1-2; 1 Ephesians 5:1-21) Experiencing the kingdom of God revealed by God's light, His love and truth

### I AM THE DOOR OF THE SHEEP

### Rhythm of living in God's presence, experiencing His great love and all He is and has to offer

Pointing to the gateway to the abundant life and love of God, revealing the presence and glory of God Opening free and full access to God's presence, love, power, grace, intentions, blessings, glory Having your state of being led and directed through the Lord (John 10:1-10; Romans 5:1-5) Experiencing the kingdom of God securing access God's way through relationship with the Lord

### I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD

### Rhythm of being led by Christ in an intimate relationship to make His love and leadership real

Identifying in a very personal way with the Lord through the immensity of the love of God Receiving the fullness of God's love, faithfulness, authority, oversight, wisdom, care, protection Having your state of being known by the Lord and intimately knowing Him (John 10:11-30) Experiencing the reality of the kingdom of God through active relationship with the Lord

### I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

### Ryhthm of living in His overcoming empowerment to bring transformation and new life to every situation

Experiencing the empowerment of the Holy Spirit and new life of God through His great love and truth Experiencing revived overcoming vitality and strength for redeemed, renewed, everlasting life Experiencing your state of being alive in the Lord and His new life of the Spirit (John 11-12 dynamics) Experiencing the kingdom of God triumphing through the new life of the Holy Spirit

### I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

### Rhythm of walking with Christ to bring the reality of heavenly alignment to every aspect of life

Empowering the overcoming life and love of God; realizing eternal truths and the divine realities of God Seeing the way of God and way to living overcoming life, achieving fulfillment and purpose Having your state of being in true alignment and rhythm with God and His ways (John 13-14 dynamics) Experiencing the kingdom of God operating according to God's ways and truth, bearing His life in His love

### I AM THE TRUE VINE

### Rhythm of flowing in joyful fruitfulness through Christ

Establishing rootedness and connection; living in the sustained flow of the life and love of God Experiencing true union with God in rhythm with God, bringing sustained flow of fruit bearing life Experiencing a state of abiding in fruitful flowing union immersed in the Lord (John 14-17 dynamics) Experiencing the kingdom of God flowing organically and synergistically bearing fruit glorifying God

### III. The order in which Jesus proclaims the seven "I AM" declarations is significant.

- A. They build upon each other, progressively revealing the increasing dimensions of who the Lord is, and can be, working in and through us. They also reveal key crossing points.
  - 1. The first three "I AM" declarations use metaphors (bread, light, door) as *shadows pointing to greater spiritual realities*. They may be viewed as *previews* providing *vision* and insight into God's greater purposes. Such vision brings *focus* and *direction*. It enables us to see beyond—to motivate, prepare and strengthen us to move towards God's upward call.
  - 2. The Lord then moves beyond using metaphors. He shifts to reveal His identity in a very personal way. He invites us to *cross over the threshold* to engage into an *intimate relationship* with Him that brings us *beyond many customary aspects and trappings of philosophies and religious traditions*. As we do, we experience His love in greater ways than most people know to become positioned to receive His greatest blessings.
  - 3. The Lord then moves to reveal greater and more powerful dimensions of spiritual realities. He invites us again to see beyond and cross over to participate in paradigm shifts that express dynamic dimensions of the new life of the Spirit and reality of the kingdom of God—which is within us and among us—and open to us by faith. This brings new, greater possibilities, real freedom of soul and greater peace and joy to life! This is how we bear good fruit and glorify God.
- B. Keep in mind, these seven profound "I AM" declarations *connect* with the way God introduced Himself to Moses and the Hebrew people; "I AM WHO I AM" (Exodus 3:14).
- C. So, Jesus *fulfills His role of Messiah expanding upon God's self-disclosure.* He gives *greater insights* and understanding into His nature—who He is, can be, and wants to be to us—and in us—and through us—through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.
- D. As we can see from the Table, THE BIG PICTURE OF THE MANIFOLD BLESSINGS OF OUR IDENTITY IN "I AM" Jesus shows us how we can *experience the Holy Spirit working in us in a variety of ways:* 
  - 1. God's *covenant life* progressively giving and growing life in us.
  - 2. The divine process of His *regeneration* progressively working deeper in us.
  - 3. The dynamics of *His grace, redemption and blessings* impacting our *state of being.*
  - 4. The kingdom of God advancing in us, so we can grow *in our higher calling, doing greater things,* impacting others, glorifying God.

### **REVIEW—REFLECT—RESPOND**

Meditate on each of these four dynamics. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you insights into these dimensions of God's grace. Then, reflect on thoughts that come to you. This will help prepare you for our Great Immersion in I AM!

# IV. Be inspired and encouraged as we embark on the journey with the Lord as He leads us through His Great Immersion in "I AM." Receive His great love and grace gifts to grow and bear good fruit for His glory!

- A. Prepare your heart to receive God's great love and your mind to see and process new things.
- B. Allow the Holy Spirit to birth in you an *expectancy* of great things He has in store for you.
- C. Keep at the forefront of your mind the first things Jesus proclaims: His great mission, amplifying Isaiah 61:1, to impart into us Healing—Liberty—Vision.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to *heal* the brokenhearted, To proclaim *liberty* to the captives And *recovery of sight to the blind* (Luke 4:18)

- > Be resolved and resilient in *receiving God's love* to be *healed* of any brokenheartedness.
- Be continuously open to receiving strengthening spiritual vision to walk in God's freedom.
- Be hopeful to live joyfully free from fear, being a victor in Christ.
- D. Allow the Holy Spirit to help you see what God has prepared for us to be and do beyond what we think.

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21)

## Place a priority on focusing upon the Review—Reflect—Respond questions and exercises provided

- > Use as discussion topics if in a group or with a study partner.
- > Reflect to gain greater insights and understanding of the nuggets presented.
- > How does what was discussed relate to the context of your life and personal experiences?
- > Pray for insights into how to apply what you've reflected upon and discussed.
- > Also be sure to engage in the various exercises in the Appendix. They are provided for *continuing practical application, enrichment and growth.*
- You may also consider using a journal to enable you to reflect on and record your additional thoughts and insights the Holy Spirit brings to you.

May the Lord bless you through this immersion and on your journey in Him! May He shine His glorious light upon you that you find yourself in His great love and shalom!