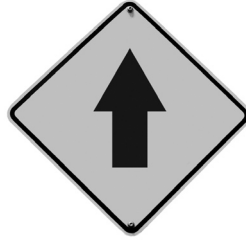


I AM



... the Way.

1. God's name is "I AM."

"Moses said to God, 'Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?' God said to Moses, '**I AM WHO I AM.** This is what you are to say to the Israelites: '**I AM** has sent me to you.'...*This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation.*"
(Exodus 3:13-15 NIV)

2. There is power in God's name.

"When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was an olive grove, and he and his disciples went into it. Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. So Judas came to the grove, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons. Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, 'Who is it you want?' 'Jesus of Nazareth,' they replied. 'I am he,' Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) When Jesus said, 'I am he,' they drew back and fell to the ground.
(John 18:1-6 NIV)

3. When Jesus said, "I am the way," he was claiming to be the way to God.

"Don't be troubled. You trust God, now trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's home, and I am going to prepare a place for you. If this were not so, I would tell you plainly. When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. And you know where I am going and how to get there.' 'No, we don't know, Lord,' Thomas said. 'We haven't any idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.'" (John 14:1-6 NLT)

- a. Jesus didn't claim to know the way to God; he claimed to BE the way to God.

"I am the way..." (John 14: 6a NLT)

"In the beginning the Word already existed. He was with God, and he was God. He was in the beginning with God. He created everything there is. Nothing exists that he didn't make. Life itself was in him, and this life gives light to everyone...So the Word became human and lived here on earth among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father." (John 1:1-4,14 NLT)

“Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”
(John 17:25-26 NIV)

b. Jesus didn't claim to be a way to God; he claimed to be the ONLY way to God.

“I am...the truth...No one can come to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6b NLT)

“There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12 NLT)

“...there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and people. He is the man Christ Jesus. He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone.” (1 Timothy 2:5-6 NLT)

4. We must decide whether or not we trust Jesus to be “the way.”

a. Trusting Jesus as “the way” is a personal decision.

“Don't be troubled. You trust God, now trust in me.”
(John 14:1-2 NLT)

“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” (Matthew 7:14-15 NKJV)

“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.”
(Romans 10:9-11 NLT)

b. Trusting Jesus as “the way” is an urgent decision.

“When everything is ready, I will come and get you...”
(John 14:3 NLT)

“As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come... be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.” (Matthew 24: 36-44 NLT)

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