# The I AM Statements of Christ

Meditations, prayers, scripture, and recorded new hymns for public worship and personal devotions

from the series: Fresh Views of Timeless Truths

Ken Bible

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# Contents

Scripture, Reflections, Prayers, and Hymns

38

Exodus 3:1-15	5
The Transcendent God	6
<i>Our Lord I AM</i>	7
Romans 11:33-36; Ephesians 4:4-6	9
The Allness of God	10
<i>The Allness of God</i>	12
John 1:14-27	14
Human	15
<i>You Came to Us</i>	16
Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 2:9-10	18
The I AM	19
<i>We Can Know Our God Transcendent</i>	21
Ephesians 1:3	22
Jesus Christ, the I AM	23
<i>I Am I AM, the Boundless Christ</i>	24
The I AM Sayings	25
I AM the Bread of L	ife
John 6:1-14, 26-29, 35, 48-51	26
Feeding the Five Thousand	27
<i>Feeding the Five Thousand</i>	29
I AM the Light of the V	Vorld
John 1:4-5; 8:12	30
Christ the Light	31
<i>God Is Light</i>	32
<i>Jesus, the Light of the World</i>	34
I AM the Door	
John 10:7-10	36
I Am the Door	37

I Am the Door

### I AM the Good Shepherd

John 10:1-4, 11, 14, 27-28	39
The Good Shepherd	40
Good Shepherd	41

#### I AM the Resurrection and the Life

John 11:1-7, 17-45	43
The Resurrection of Lazarus	45
John 11	46

#### I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life

John 14:1-28	47
The Way, Truth, and Life	49
The Way, Truth, and Life	50

#### I AM the True Vine

John 15:1-8	51
Prune Me	52
Life in the Vine	53

### Exodus 3:1-15 (NASB)

1 Now Moses was pasturing the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; and he led the flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 Then the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not being consumed. 3 So Moses said, "I must turn aside and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burning up!" 4 When the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." 5 Then He said, "Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." 6 And He said, "I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

7 And the Lord said, "I have certainly seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their outcry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite. 9 And now, behold, the cry of the sons of Israel has come to Me; furthermore, I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians are oppressing them.

10 And now come, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt." 11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?" 12 And He said, "Assuredly I will be with you, and this shall be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God at this mountain."

13 Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?" 14 And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "This is what you shall say to the sons of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" 15 God furthermore said to Moses, "This is what you shall say to the sons of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" 15 God furthermore said to Moses, "This is what you shall say to the sons of Israel: 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is My name forever, and this is the name for all generations to use to call upon Me.

# The Transcendent God

Death is naked before God... He spreads out the northern skies over empty space; he suspends the earth over nothing. He wraps up the waters in his clouds, yet the clouds do not burst under their weight. The pillars of the heavens quake, aghast at his rebuke. By his power he churned up the sea... By his breath the skies became fair...

And these are but the outer fringe of his works; how faint the whisper we hear of him! Who then can understand the thunder of his power? (Job 26:6-8, 11-14, NIV)

Many insist on a god as small as they are, a human deity comfortably within their puny understanding. They want a god without power, holiness, or transcendence, without fire, anger, zeal, or sovereignty; a god as ignorant, bland, spineless, and apathetic as they. Many prefer a god who is no god at all.

But for the true and living Creator, even our grandest images - the thunder of His power, the oceans of His love - are childish understatements. His love boils over into universes, races, and epochs, bounded only by His own wisdom. His self-giving cannot be stopped any more than a sandcastle can hold back the ocean.

I find comfort in the immanence of God, in His personal nearness and constant presence with me. He is closer and more intimate than any of us can imagine. Knowing Him and realizing His presence have transformed my entire life.

But in the rushing stream of our daily struggle and in the crises that inevitably come, I desperately need to see the transcendent God. I need to be reminded of the God who is God indeed, the One who is bigger than my shriveled perspective; the God who overflows all names and all descriptions; the God whose self-given name, "I AM," suggests that He is being itself, beyond all time and all categories.

Even as a believer, most of the discontent in my life flows from a heart that sees too little of God.

Hymn recording: Our Lord I AM





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#### Romans 11:33-36 (NASB)

33 Oh, the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! 34 For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? 35 Or who has first given to Him, that it would be paid back to him? 36 For from Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

### **Ephesians 4:4-6**

(NASB)

4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you also were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

### The Allness of God

He is the Source, the Creator, and the continual Sustainer of all reality, all existence, all being. All that is moves from Him, through Him, and to Him. He inhabits, encompasses, and fills all time and all place. He is utterly transcendent high above and separate - yet utterly immanent indwelling and intimately, personally present. He is without beginning and without ending, unchanging perfection, unimprovable completeness, and fullness that continually overflows toward all He has made. He is all holiness,

> all love, all life, all joy, all light, all truth, and all meaning.

He is allness beyond full comprehension or expression.

Turn to Him. Know Him. Trust Him. Love Him. Focus your heart, mind, and life on Your Maker, Your Father, Your Source, Your destiny, Your All-in-all.

Hymn recording: The Allness of God

# The Allness of God

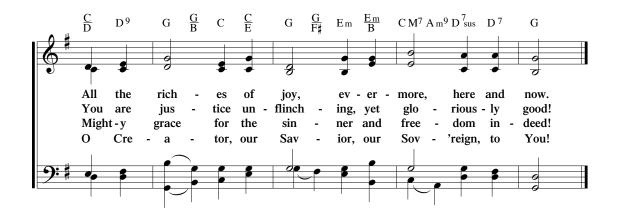
TUNE: How Firm a Foundation (FOUNDATION, alt.) Exodus 3:14; 34:6-7; Psalm 36:9; 104:27-30; John 8:36; 17:13; Romans 11:33, 36; 16:27; 1 Corinthians 15:28; Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Timothy 1:17; James 1:17; Revelation 1:8; 4:11-14; 22:13



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### John 1:14-27 (NASB)

14 The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 John testified about Him and called out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who is coming after me has proved to be my superior, because He existed before me." 16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. 17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has seen God at any time; God the only Son, who is in the arms of the Father, He has explained Him.

19 This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites to him from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 And he confessed and did not deny; and this is what he confessed: "I am not the Christ." 21 And so they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" And he \*said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." 22 Then they said to him, "Who are you? Tell us, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 23 He said, "I am the voice of one calling out in the wilderness, 'Make the way of the Lord straight,' as Isaiah the prophet said."

24 And the messengers had been sent from the Pharisees. 25 They asked him, and said to him, "Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26 John answered them, saying, "I baptize in water, but among you stands One whom you do not know. 27 It is He who comes after me, of whom I am not worthy even to untie the strap of His sandal."

### Human

This Light, this Love. this Wisdom the Eternal Son Himself has become a real human being. This 100% God has become 100% flesh and blood and has lived right here among us. He has shared our daily routines, our temptations, our weaknesses, and even our death. He has become a creature like us. We look at the Son in all His humanity, and what do we see? We see the glory of the Father. Creation, in all its magnificence, is only a faint reflection of all that the Father is. The Son is the Living Father complete and at full strength. He is exactly like the Father and exactly like us, all at the same time, yet without our sin. Because He has become human,

humanity will never be the same again. Jesus the Son is the Second Adam, the beginning of a whole new race, a whole new possibility for each and every one of us.

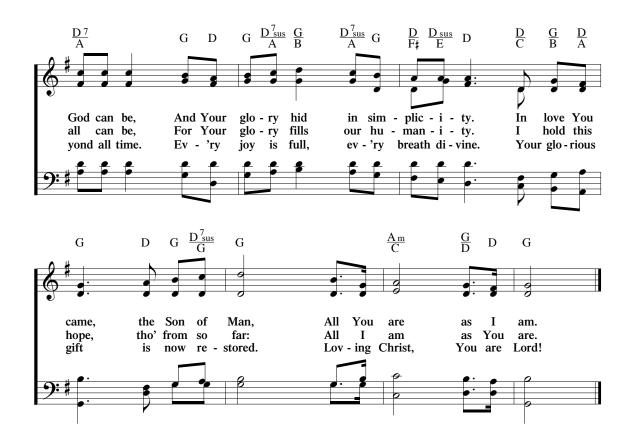
> We spend our lives fearfully holding God at arm's length, not realizing that His only goal is to fulfill us completely, to make us loving, wise, fruitful, glorious, and at peace with Himself and all creation.

> > Hymn recording: You Came to Us



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### **Colossians 1:15**

(NASB)

[Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

### Hebrews 1:3

(NASB)

[Christ] is the radiance of [God's] glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power.

### Colossians 2:9-10

(NASB)

9 In [Christ] all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,10 and in Him you have been made complete, andHe is the head over every ruler and authority.

### The I AM

Jesus Christ is the Word become flesh (John 1:14). He is the image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15). He is all the fullness of the Deity in bodily form (Colossians 2:9). He is the radiance of the Father's glory and the exact representation of His very being (Hebrews 1:3).

Holy God is now human. The Almighty shares our weakness. Our Sovereign is a humble servant. The Unapproachable One grants us unlimited access. The Transcendent, the Incomprehensible, the Unimaginable has come to us, and we see Him face to face.

Mystery and intimacy, power and dependence, time and eternity are seamlessly combined in Him.

The Unknowable is knowable by childlike faith alone. The glory of the Infinite God, of whom the vast universe is only a passing glimpse and a faint whisper, is fully revealed in this One.

He shares with us

His wisdom, His heart, His breath, and His peace.

He welcomes us with open arms, holds us gently in His hand, lovingly speaks our name, and calls Himself our Brother.

All that the Father has, all that He is, and all the gifts of His magnificent Being are ours forever in this One: Jesus Christ.

Holy Father, in Jesus Christ You have removed all the barriers between You and me.

Hymn recording: We Can Know Our God Transcendent

# We Can Know Our God Transcendent

Exodus 3:14; 20:4; John 6:35; 8:12; 10:7-11; 11:23-26; 14:5-7; 15:1; Colossians 1:15-20; 2:9-10; Hebrews 1:1-3; 2:11



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# Ephesians 1:3

(NASB)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ

### Jesus Christ, the I AM

Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?" And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "This is what you shall say to the sons of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you."" (Exodus 3:13-14, NASB)

"I AM" was the name God gave Himself when He first revealed Himself to Moses at the burning bush. He was the timeless, all-encompassing God, the source of all being. Then as God led His people through the wilderness, He proved Himself to be all they needed: their bread in a barren wilderness, their light in the darkness. their Shepherd who faithfully cared for each of their needs. So when Jesus came, He revealed Himself to be the I AM. all that we need for our journey through this wilderness: our Bread. our Light, our Shepherd. He is the Door, laying down His own body for our deliverance. He is the Resurrection and the Life, life eternal here and now. He is the Way to the Father, the Truth about the Father. the Life of the Father. He is the True and Living Vine. All the blessings of the Father, all the fruitfulness the Father wants for us flows to us through Jesus Christ.

Hymn recording: I Am I AM, the Boundless Christ



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## The I AM Sayings

Through the I AM statements, Jesus was in essence saying,

#### "I AM the completeness of God, come to make you complete in Him."

But notice one important detail:

each context has a condition.

Christ can only give the gifts of the Father and

be the Gift of the Father

to those who respond to Him.

I AM the Bread of Life...

"You will not hunger if you come...believe...and eat" (John 6:35-37, 53-57). I AM the Light of the World...

"You will not walk in darkness if you follow Me" (John 8:12).

I AM the Door...

"If anyone enters through Me, he will be saved" (John 10:9).

I AM the Good Shepherd...

"If you listen to My voice and follow Me" (John 10:27).

I AM the Resurrection and the Life...

"He who believes in Me will live even if he dies" (John 11:25).

I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life...

"No one comes to the Father but through Me" (John 14:6).

I AM the True Vine...

"If you remain in Me and I in You" (John 15:4-7).

So come,

believe, follow, remain in Him. For He alone is the I AM, the All-in-all, your completeness, the fulfillment of all your needs and desires.

# I AM the Bread of Life

#### John 6:1-14, 26-29, 35, 48-51 (NASB)

1 After these things Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias). 2 A large crowd was following Him, because they were watching the signs which He was performing on those who were sick. 3 But Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples. 4 Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was near. 5 So Jesus, after raising His eyes and seeing that a large crowd was coming to Him, said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread so that these people may eat?" 6 But He was saying this only to test him, for He Himself knew what He intended to do. 7 Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not enough for them, for each to receive just a little!" 8 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, 9 "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what are these for so many people?" 10 Jesus said, "Have the people recline to eat." Now there was plenty of grass in the place. So the men reclined, about five thousand in number. 11 Jesus then took the loaves, and after giving thanks He distributed them to those who were reclining; likewise also of the fish, as much as they wanted. 12 And when they had eaten their fill, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the leftover pieces so that nothing will be lost." 13 So they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with pieces from the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. 14 Therefore when the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."

26 Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate some of the loaves and were filled. 27 Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that lasts for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal." 28 Therefore they said to Him, "What are we to do, so that we may accomplish the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; the one who comes to Me will not be hungry, and the one who believes in Me will never be thirsty.

48 "I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50 This is the bread that comes down out of heaven, so that anyone may eat from it and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats from this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I will give for the life of the world also is My flesh."

### Feeding the Five Thousand

Apart from the resurrection of Christ, the only miracle reported in all four gospels is the feeding of the five thousand. Clearly, to the gospel writers, it was uniquely important to understanding Jesus. So we tend to read the account and ask ourselves: As servants of Christ. how we are to respond to needs when they overwhelm our meager resources? But read further in John's account, in John 6:26-65, and you'll find Jesus telling the crowd that physical need is not the point of the event at all. In fact, Jesus pointedly says that we cannot do what He did, because we cannot be who He is. The feeding of the five thousand was a sign (v.26). A "sign" is an event, especially a miracle, intended to verify the truth of a teaching. Jesus intended the feeding of the five thousand to be a sign pointing to Himself as the Bread of Life, the unique satisfaction for all life's hungers. The miracle was intended to shout, "Come to Me and satisfy your hunger forever!" But the crowd didn't see the sign, only the free food. For people who worked hard for daily bread, free food was a powerful motivator. But Jesus continued to press them to understand the real purpose of the sign: "Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you." (John 6:27, NASB) He urged them to look beyond physical bread, which satisfies only our bodies, and only for a few hours. As the True Bread,

the Bread of Life, Jesus provides complete life, complete provision for all we are, forever. Eternal life is Jesus Christ, and He freely shares all He is with all who come to Him and trust Him (John 6:29, 35) The feeding of the five thousand points backwards to manna in the wilderness, where God provided heavenly bread to those with no other source of food. As then, Jesus was teaching them to look to God and depend on Him for needs that no one and nothing else can meet. The feeding of the five thousand also points ahead to the last supper: "This is My body which is given for you" (Luke 22:19, NASB). His own body is the bread broken, blessed by the Father, to feed the human race when nothing else can. Feast yourself on Jesus Christ. Trust Him. Receive Him. Take Him in, and you will become one with Him, sharing in His magnificent life forever (John 6:56).

Hymn recording: Feeding the Five Thousand



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# I AM the Light of the World

### John 1:4-5

(NASB)

4 In Him was life, andthe life was the Light of mankind.5 And the Light shines in the darkness, andthe darkness did not grasp it.

#### John 8:12

(NASB)

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; the one who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

# **Christ the Light**

We walk every day through the darkness of this world, in the shadow of

our ignorance, our weakness, and our mortality.

But Jesus Christ is the Light. As we walk in Him, our steps are certain, our strength is sufficient, and our life is full and forever.

We are bathed in God's presence. We are guided by His wisdom. We are supported by His power. We are cradled by His love.

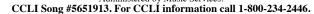
As we follow Christ, we never walk in darkness.

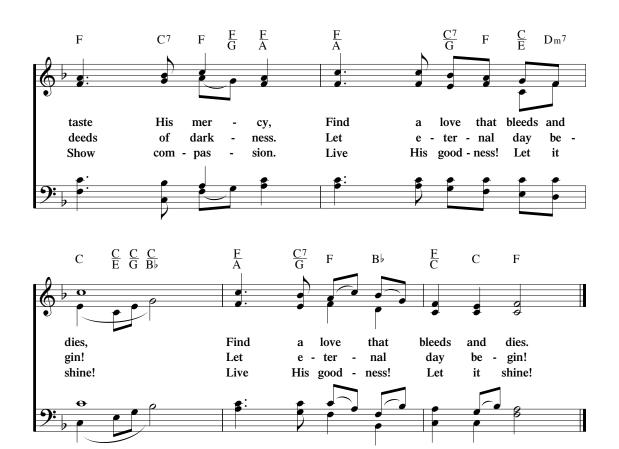
Father, through all this darkness, Jesus is the Light leading us to You. I will walk in Him step by step.

#### Hymn recording: God Is Light

Hymn recording: Jesus, the Light of the World

God Is Light TUNE: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah (CWM RHONDDA) Romans 13:12-14; Ephesians 5:8-14; 1 John 1:1 - 2:11 = 88  $\frac{F}{G}$ F A  $F \quad \frac{C}{G} \quad \frac{F}{A} \quad \frac{Gm^7}{B\flat} \quad \frac{F}{C}$ <u>F</u> A F С F B♭ B♭  $Gm^7$ 2 1. God is light. We all can know Him. All can see His 2. God light. We share His glo live and is As - ry we 3. God is light. Dis - play His beau - ty! Live kind - ness а F C  $\frac{F}{A}$  $\frac{F}{G}$  $F \quad \frac{C}{G} \quad \frac{F}{A} \quad \frac{G\,m^7}{B\,\flat} \quad \frac{F}{C}$ C7 F F B♭ С 2 2 face in Christ, In His voice hear heav - en's wis dom, love in Him. We can walk in ho ly free - dom \_ all di - vine. Prove His grace to all round you. а -5  $C^7 \, \frac{G\,m^7}{D} \, \frac{C}{E}$ <u>B</u>♭ D <u>F</u> A  $\frac{F}{C}$  $\frac{F}{C}$ С C7 F B♭ F • God smile in Feel His pow - er, See hu - man eyes, As He lives and grows with - in. Lay a - side your Love still His Share for - give - ness. is seal and sign. WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: John Hughes CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7. Alt. Tune: REGENT SQUARE Copyright © 2009 by LNWhymns.com (ASCAP). All rights reserved. Administered by Music Services. CCLI Song #5651913. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.





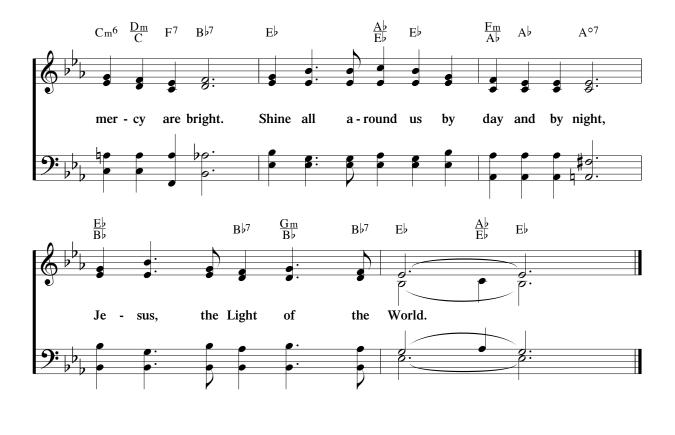
# Jesus, the Light of the World

John 8:12; 2 Peter 1:19; Revelation 21:23



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# I AM the Door

### John 10:7-10

(NASB)

7 Jesus said to them again,
"Truly, truly I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.
8 All those who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.
9 I am the door;
if anyone enters through Me,
he will be saved, and
will go in and out and find pasture.
10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;
I came so that they would have life, and
have it abundantly."

### I Am the Door

A sheep fold was a walled enclosure,

usually made of stones,

designed to keep sheep or goats.

The fold was their home,

their place of security.

The good shepherd provided for every need of His flock:

food,

water,

shelter,

medical care,

protection from anyone or anything that could harm them.

He knew each of the sheep individually.

He knew their names, and

they knew His voice.

They followed him.

They trusted him.

They depended completely on him.

While in the fold,

the flock was safe from any attack.

There was only one way in, and

the shepherd placed himself there.

He lay down across the one opening.

Quite literally, He was the door.

He put his own body between

the flock and any danger.

That's why Jesus said,

*I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture*" (John 10:9, NASB).

And

*"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep"* (John 10:11, NASB).

#### Hymn recording: <u>I Am the Door</u>

## I Am the Door

John 10:7-10



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# I AM the Good Shepherd

### John 10:1-4,11, 14, 27-28 (NASB)

1 "Truly, truly I say to you, the one who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. 2 But the one who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep listen to his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he puts all his own sheep outside, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

11 "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

14 "I am the good shepherd, and I know My own, and My own know Me.

27 "My sheep listen to My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give them eternal life, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand."

### **The Good Shepherd**

Good Shepherd, lead me through this day. Call me by name, and help me hear Your voice in my heart. May I follow no voice but Yours.

Lead me out, Lord. Always go with me and before me. Lead me to Your provision for today: Your bread, Your work, Your rest.

Good Shepherd, You are the door. Through You I enter into life. You are always standing in front of me, protecting me from the Evil One.

Good Shepherd, You lay down Your life for me. I am Your own. The same knowing that binds You to Your Father now binds me to You.

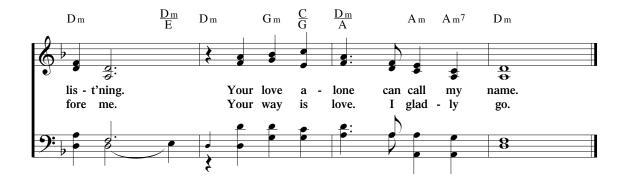
You are love. Speak, Lord. My heart is listening.

Hymn recording: Good Shepherd

## **Good Shepherd**



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## I AM the Resurrection and the Life

#### **John 11:1-7, 17-45** (NASB)

1 Now a certain man was sick: Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 And it was the Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. 3 So the sisters sent word to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." 4 But when Jesus heard this, He said, "This sickness is not meant for death, but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it." 5 (Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister, and Lazarus.) 6 So when He heard that he was sick, He then stayed two days longer in the place where He was. 7 Then after this He said to the disciples, "Let's go to Judea again."

17 So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about fifteen stadia away; 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them about their brother. 20 So then Martha, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him, but Mary stayed in the house. 21 Martha then said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise from the dead." 24 Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; the one who believes in Me will live, even if he dies, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" 27 She said to Him, "Yes, Lord; I have come to believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, and He who comes into the world."

28 When she had said this, she left and called Mary her sister, saying secretly, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." 29 And when she heard this, she got up quickly and came to Him.

30 Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still at the place where Martha met Him. 31 Then the Jews who were with her in the house and were consoling her, when they saw that Mary had gotten up quickly and left, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there. 32 So when Mary came to the place where Jesus was, she saw Him and fell at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." 33 Therefore when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled, 34 and He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." 35 Jesus wept. 36 So the Jews were saying, "See how He loved him!" 37 But some of them said, "Could this man, who opened the eyes of the man who was blind, not have also kept this man from dying?"

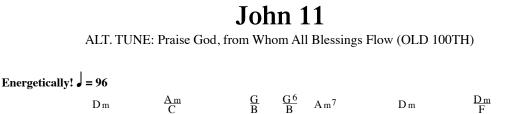
38 So Jesus, again being deeply moved within, came to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 39 Jesus said, "Remove the stone." Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days." 40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" 41 So they removed the stone. And Jesus raised His eyes, and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. 42 But I knew that You always hear Me; nevertheless, because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me." 43 And when He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 Out came the man who had died, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

45 Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him.

### The Resurrection of Lazarus

Almighty Father, You turn tragedies into blessings as we trust You. In the resurrection of Lazarus, the Word of God, spoken through human lips, pierced the impenetrable distance and darkness of death. Imagine! That Word sent new life pulsing through a dead body. The resurrection of Lazarus is proof that resurrection life is not a distant dream, not a theoretical idea, but a present reality. Jesus Christ is Himself the resurrection and the life (John 11:25-26, NASB), and He is with us. right here, right now. As we simply trust Him, He fills us with His almighty, unconquerable, everlasting life. The oneness, the fellowship, the living union You are now sharing with God will never end. Your eternal life with Him has already begun. That living, moment-by-moment bond that is already so precious will never be broken. You are experiencing it now, and it will grow and grow as You trust Him. Physical death will not separate you from Him. Through death, your union with God will bloom into glorious perfection.

Hymn recording: John 11





WORD: Ken Bible MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible

AS I ROVED OUT 2 L.M.

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# I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life

#### John 14:1-28 (NASB)

1 "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many rooms; if that were not so, I would have told you, because I am going there to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will take you to Myself, so that where I am, there you also will be. 4 And you know the way where I am going." 5 Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going; how do we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

7 "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him."

8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? The one who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own, but the Father, as He remains in Me, does His works. 11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves. 12 Truly, truly I say to you, the one who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I am going to the Father. 13 And whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.

15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

16 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, so that He may be with you forever; 17 the Helper is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him; but you know Him because He remains with you and will be in you.

18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. 19 After a little while, the world no longer is going to see Me, but you are going to see Me; because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I in you. 21 The one who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and the one who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will reveal Myself to him." 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, what has happened that You are going to reveal Yourself to us and not to the world?" 23 Jesus answered and said to

him, "If anyone loves Me, he will follow My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our dwelling with him. 24 The one who does not love Me does not follow My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.

25 "These things I have spoken to you while remaining with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and remind you of all that I said to you. 27 Peace I leave you, My peace I give you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, nor fearful. 28 You heard that I said to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I."

## The Way, Truth, and Life

John 14:1-28

What moves me most in John 14 is the

warm,

joyful,

deeply heartfelt way

Jesus continually points us to His Father.

For example:

- Jesus is only leaving His disciples in order to
  - prepare an eternal home for them with His Father and Himself (vv.1-3). They will all live together forever!
- Jesus' driving purpose is to show them the Father and
  - bring them to the Father (vv.4-10).
- Jesus' words and His works point unmistakably to the Father. And we ourselves now speak those words and
  - do those works ourselves (vv.10-14).
  - We share in the work they share.
- Jesus is going away only to
  - bless us more abundantly with the Father.
  - The Father's own Spirit will make His home in us (vv.15-26).

In v.6, Jesus puts it this way:

- I am the way to the Father.
- I am the whole truth about the Father.
- I am the abundant life of the Father.

What a wonderful gift is

Jesus Christ!

And Jesus' greatest blessing to us is

His relationship with the Father.

#### Hymn recording: The Way, Truth, and Life

## The Way, Truth, and Life

John 14:1-28



WORD: Ken Bible MUSIC: Ken Bible, inspired by a traditional folk tune JOHN 14 9.9.9.8.

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# I AM the True Vine

### John 15:1-8

(NASB)

1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in Me, and I in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself but must remain in the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in Me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches; the one who remains in Me, and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not remain in Me, he is thrown away like a branch and dries up; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you remain in Me, and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples."

### **Prune Me**

Father, Creator, Source of all that is good, all life and fruitfulness flow from You through Jesus Christ. He is the Vine, and I am a branch in Him. All that is good and beautiful and life-giving, all that is You in me, flows through my connection with Him. Prune me, Lord. Clean away all that fruitlessly drains Your life-giving sap. Cut off all that hinders the flow of the Spirit between Christ and me. Remove all that clutters my mind, heart, and life without connecting me closer to Him. Strip away all that is not love. all that is not Christ. O merciful, all-wise, all-loving Lord, prune me

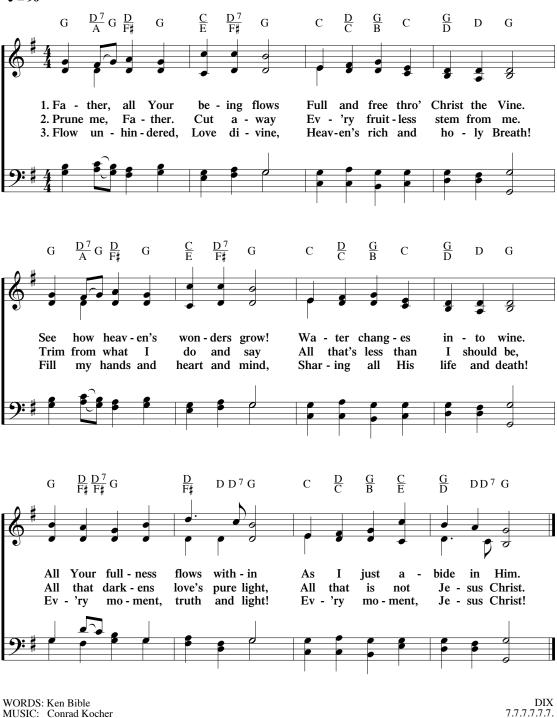
that more of You might flow freely through me.

#### Hymn recording: Life in the Vine

# Life in the Vine

TUNE: For the Beauty of the Earth (DIX) John 15:1-8; 1 Corinthians 6:12; 10:23; Ephesians 3:14-21





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