

Bible Helps

I Am

What are the I Am statements of Jesus?

I am the bread. John 6:35

I am the light. 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, the truth, and the life. John 14:6

I am the vine. John 15:1

What is the purpose of these statements?

The purpose of these statements is wrapped up in the larger purpose of John's gospel. John tells us that his gospel is meant to help the reader "*believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*" So there is an evangelistic motivation to these statements. Jesus and John want to help the reader have faith in God's revelation concerning Jesus. There is also a sanctifying motivation to them. The Christian life not only begins in faith but is also maintained by faith. These statements put before the Christian the uniqueness and glory of Jesus so as to help them walk by faith.

Related to this idea is also the purpose of showing Jesus to be equal with God the Father. The name I am is not given first by Jesus, but by the Father in the Old Testament. The Father identifies Himself as the great I Am who I Am to Israel. Jesus takes the name the Father gave to Himself and applies it to His own person and work. In doing this He is more or less driving home the point that He and the Father are one. Refer to John 8:58 and the surrounding verses to see Jesus do this: *Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."*

Are there any good resources to help me study these statements on my own?

Yes, they are as follows:

I Am...Exploring the I Am Sayings of John's Gospel by Iain D. Campbell

That You May Believe: New Life in the Son by Joseph Ryan

Expository Thoughts on John by J.C. Ryle

And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"