

I Am _____ (2022)

Pastor James Foley – Sunday, October 9, 2022

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for joining us! Whether you are here in person or joining via the livestream you are most welcome! Please have a Bible at the ready and be prepared to take notes as you like. We have much to cover in a rather short space of time (i.e., standalone sermon).

SETTING THE STAGE

NOTE 1 – In recent days we have initiated ministry to the students and staff at Stetson. One thing I have noted in my interactions, which in particular must remain confidential, is that a great many seem to have a warped, broken and unbiblical view of SELF. Many seem to view themselves in a highly distorted and unhealthy manner, and should you ask them to describe and/or define themselves (i.e., I AM _____) you would likely get a rather tragic response.

NOTE 2 – Of course, one thing I have noted in two decades of ministry is that a great many men, women and children within the church also have a warped, broken and unbiblical view of SELF. Many faithful attendees view themselves in a distorted and unhealthy manner, and should YOU be asked to describe and/or define yourselves, I would likely get a tragic slate of responses. If I were to ask one-hundred men, women and children to detail themselves, they might say (i.e., IF fully transparent)...

NOTE 3 – I am: **a)** ugly; **b)** unloved; **c)** a waste or a mistake; **d)** a nobody; **e)** worthless; **f)** purposeless; **g)** too far gone; **h)** unforgivable; **i)** forgotten; **j)** alone; **k)** useless; **l)** powerless and/or defeated; **m)** cursed; **n)** hopeless; and beyond. Of course, you may be thinking I am exaggerating this morning, but I can assure you that I have heard each and every one of these terms in my tenure as a minister, as people share their hearts with me.

NOTE 4 – Yet our lives are not to be governed by our feelings or faulty perspectives. Our own sense of perception is not a suitable foundation for Christian life and living, as for the most part, we look at ourselves in a cracked or warped mirror! Rather, we must renew our minds according to the truth of Scripture...

Romans 12:1b–2 (NIV)

1 . . . I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

KEY – Our hearts and minds must be renewed (i.e., reprogrammed) according to Scripture and Scripture alone. We must learn to perceive ourselves through the lens or filter of truth, even if this requires a long, arduous and, at times, painful renewal within!

NOTE 4 – Thus, I would like to offer a corrective lens to each of the self-descriptions noted moments ago...

I am ___ **UGLY** ___ → **BEAUTIFUL TO GOD**

FYI – You may be externally unattractive and judged accordingly, but this does not diminish what God sees...

1 Samuel 16:7b

7 . . . the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

1 Peter 3:3–4

3 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. 4 Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight.

I am ___ **UNLOVED** ___ → **LOVED**

Romans 5:8

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 8:35, 37–39

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? . . . 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I am ___ **A WASTE/MISTAKE** ___ → **SIGNIFICANT**

Psalms 139:16

13 For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful, I know that full well.
15 My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place.
When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,
16 your eyes saw my unformed body.
All the days ordained for me
were written in your book
before one of them came to be.
17 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
18 Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand.
When I awake, I am still with you.

I am ___ **A NOBODY** ___ → **SOMEBODY**

Ephesians 2:4–7

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 2:11–12

11 Here is a trustworthy saying:

If we died with him,

we will also live with him;

12 if we endure,

we will also reign with him.

Hebrews 4:15–16

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. 16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

I am ___ **WORTHLESS** ___ → **TREASURED**

Ephesians 2:10

10 For we are God’s workmanship [i.e., masterpiece], created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Zechariah 2:8

For whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye [i.e., most treasured possession].

I am ___ **PURPOSELESS** ___ → **PURPOSED**

Jeremiah 29:11

11 For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future

I am ___ **TOO FAR GONE** ___ → **DESIRED & SOUGHT AFTER**

Revelation 3:20

20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

I am ___UNFORGIVABLE___→INVITED UNTO PARDON

Isaiah 1:18

18 “Come now, let us reason together,”
says the LORD.

“Though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson,
they shall be like wool.

1 John 1:8–9

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

I am ___FORGOTTEN___→KNOWN

Isaiah 49:15

15 “Can a mother forget the baby at her breast
and have no compassion on the child she has borne?
Though she may forget,
I will not forget you!

Job 23:8–10

8 “But if I go to the east, he is not there;
if I go to the west, I do not find him.
9 When he is at work in the north, I do not see him;
when he turns to the south, I catch no glimpse of him.
10 But he knows the way that I take;
when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.

I am ___ALONE___→SURROUNDED

Hebrews 13:5

“Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you.”

Psalms 23

1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
3 he restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of righteousness
for his name’s sake.
4 Even though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
6 Surely goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever

I am ___ **USELESS** ___ → **USEFUL**

Acts 1:8

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

1 Corinthians 12:12–13, 27

12 The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. . . . 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it

I am ___ **DEFEATED** ___ → **VICTORIOUS**

Romans 8:35, 37–39

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? . . . 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I am ___ **CURSED** ___ → **BLESSED**

Ephesians 1:3

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

2 Peter 1:3

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

I am ___ **HOPELESS** ___ → **W/ HOPE**

Jeremiah 29:11 (Hope for THIS Life)

11 For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

John 14:1–2 (Hope for the NEXT Life)

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God[a]; believe also in me. 2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?”

Titus 2:11–14 (Hope for the FUTURE STATE)

11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. 12 It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

SUMMATIONS

Q1. How do you define yourself?

Q2. How does Scripture define you?

Q3. Which of the two will you believe?

CONCLUSION

NOTE 1 – Feel free to give either in person or online at www.NewLifeBarre.org.

NOTE 2 – All ministries have resumed after a summer respite. Check our website for more info.

NOTE 3 – Special meeting today after service for all Children's Church volunteers and corresponding parents.

NOTE 4 – Special thanks to those who participated in the Family Fun Day yesterday. Lord bless each of you!

2 Corinthians 13:14

14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.