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Weekly Devotional

Second Person Singular

by Mark A. Segraves

English was not my favorite subject in school. Give me a choice between a thousand paper cuts on the end of my finger and diagramming the structure of a sentence and I'll say, "Bring on the Band-Aids!" Now my dad is different. He can spot a split infinitive from a mile away and don't get him started on those nouns and verbs that refuse to agree in number. But the most powerful lesson I ever learned about language has to do with God Himself.

When God desired to reveal Himself to Israel through Moses, this is what He said, *"I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel: I AM has sent me to you"* (Exodus 3:14, NLT). At first glance, this seems like a strange name. I AM. Okay. Would You like to finish that sentence, God? Obviously, God felt this two-word description, spoken in the first person singular, was sufficient. I AM. Implied in this phrase is existence and self-sufficiency. That makes sense. After all, He is God. Even more interesting is that Jesus used this phrase describing Himself: "Before Abraham was, I am" (John 8:58).

So, from God's perspective, I AM. But from our perspective, HE IS. When we use the third person singular, we can describe God to others and we should frequently do so. He is love. He is holy. He is perfect. He is merciful... we could literally go on forever. The author of Hebrews literally connects the second third person singular with the kind of faith that pleases God, for "he who comes to God must believe that He is" (Hebrews 11:6).

But if you want to advance from elementary faith to holy worship, simply shift from the third person singular (HE IS) to the second person singular (YOU ARE) and you will be lifted into the throne room of heaven. When I say HE IS, I am talking about God, but when I say YOU ARE, I am talking to God. Try it out for a day. Make a commitment to speak of God in the second person singular and see what happens in your relationship with the I AM.

Prayer: Great God, You are! You are holy, righteous, perfect and just. You are full of grace, mercy, love, and goodness. You are a Healer when I'm sick, You are a Deliverer when I'm in trouble and You are a Savior when I'm in sin. I have hope for yesterday, today and forever because You are. Amen!

Point to Ponder: How many different ways can you complete this sentence about God: You are _____.



Mark Segraves is associate pastor of LifeSong in Stockton, CA.

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LifeSong
3034 Michigan Avenue
Stockton, CA 95204
(209) 943-6604
www.lifesong.net
