



Majesty

Good Morning Church!

This morning we are going to focus on one of the most important concepts within Christianity, that being the **MAJESTY of God**.

And the reason why I say that it is one of the most important concepts within our faith is because it is only when we recognize how **MAJESTIC, GREAT, POWERFUL, SET APART** GOD IS, that we can then relate to Him properly.

This is why the scriptures are largely AIMED at heralding the transcendent nature of God.



Majesty

Romans chapter 1 verses 19 and 20 tells us that *what can be known about God is plain, because God has shown it to us. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.*

What the scriptures are telling us is that God has made His MAJESTY known/evident to us through His creation.

Majesty

And sowhen we look at the heavens, when we catch a glimpse of a rainbow, when we hug our children, or feel the warmth of the spoken words, “I LOVE YOU.” These all speak to the **Magnificence of God**..... His creation revealing His **Majesty**.

But unfortunately we as human beings have a track record of forgetting or refusing to acknowledge GOD’S MAJESTY, and when we do this we live life out of balance.

[Pause]



Majesty

Illus:

When my son Ethan was 5 years old he asked to get his training wheels taken off of his bike.

You see the neighbor kid across the street didn't have training wheels on his bike and so my son decided that he didn't need his training wheels either.

And to tell you the truth I was a bit hesitant about this. I didn't know if he was ready for it yet.

But he insisted, so I took the training wheels off and then decided that I was going to spend the rest of that afternoon helping him to learn how to ride his big boy two wheel bike.



Majesty

And so I say to Ethan, ***“Ok buddy (I call him buddy) I’m going to hold on to the back of your bike and balance you, and you just pedal and steer and dad will take care of the rest.”***

And after I said that he just looked at me a bit blankly like.... ***“Dad, I don’t need your help.”***

And then he proceeds to ride his bike down the street (without me) as if he had been riding a bike for 20 years....and I was astonished.

I then excitedly ran into the house to tell my wife, and I was yelling so loud that Kaely thought something was wrong.



Majesty

And I told my wife that Ethan was riding his bike without his training wheels, and we both ran back outside and stood in our driveway with a mixture of amazement/confusion. By this time he wasn't just riding the bike, ***he was showing off***, he was riding with one hand, balancing on one leg, thoroughly proving that he knew how to ride his bike.

And what we concluded was the Ethan had figured out the delicate balance on riding a 2 wheel bike some time ago.....the ***foundation from his training wheels*** had already been laid.

And with that ***foundation*** laid my son knew he was ready for the next level.....his training wheels had done their job of protecting him from his own lack of balance.



Majesty

And Church you see I would equate our understanding of the MAJESTY OF GOD to a ***foundation from which we can build upon... .. a solid foundation*** that enables us then to build upon our understanding of God.

Because you see without this firm foundation underneath us, many of the other things that are to be known about God will not make sense to us.

Without first possessing an understanding of God's Glory/Majesty... .. we will likely find ourselves OUT OF BALANCE in our FAITH, unable to truly know God, surrender to Him and be satisfied in Him.

[Hard Pause]

Majesty *noun*

The dignity and authority of sovereign power; a quality or state which inspires awe or reverence; grandeur; exalted dignity.

*****Majesty** is defined as...the dignity and authority of sovereign power; a quality or state which inspires awe or reverence; grandeur; exalted dignity.

Therefore to look upon the Lord with eyes of **majesty** is to understand his immense dignity, his absolute authority.

To look upon the Lord with eyes of **majesty** is to see clearly his sovereignty over ALL.....to be inspired by his magnificence to the extent that it DRAWS US INTO AWE AND COMPLETE REVERENCE.

To look upon the Lord with eyes of **majesty** is to know His GRANDUR.....and therefore our lives EXHALT HIS GREAT NAME.

Majesty

Thesis Statement

Our understanding of the greatness of God is a foundational element of our Christian faith.

Again, the point of us understanding the MAJESTY OF GOD is that as we understand who God is clearer/fuller, we can then begin to relate/respond to Him properly.

As the Glory of God is revealed to us.....we have a greater awareness of how BIG GOD IS AND HOW SMALL WE ARE....and it is this understanding that PIVOTAL TO OUR FAITH.

[Pause]

The Thesis Statement (claim) that will undergird our teaching time this morning is this.....that, ***Our understanding of the greatness of God is a foundational element of our Christian faith.***

Majesty

Thesis Statement

Our understanding of the greatness of God is a foundational element of our Christian faith.

Meaning that at the foundation (entry level) of Faith in God, there needs to be some understanding of His Greatness/Majesty.

Because it is this understanding that will then propel us into the REVERNT AWE THAT FAITH DEMANDS FROM US.

Exodus 3:1-15 (ESV)

Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. 3 And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.”

Alright, so this morning we are going to look at Moses' first encounter with God... .. because in this encounter God himself summarizes His Majesty with a name ... the name **I AM**.

Please open your Bibles to Exodus chapter 3, we will be starting in verse 1.

Read: ↑

4 When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” 5 Then he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off 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.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Continue Reading: ↑

7 Then the Lord said, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, 8 and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

Continue Reading: ↑

9 And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. 10 Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” 11 But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” 12 He said, “But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

Continue Reading: ↑

Majesty

In Exodus chapter 3 we find 60 year old Moses tending to the flock of his father-in-law... (as a side note if you have ever had one of your children live with you well into their 20's or 30's do not feel bad about that, Moses was living with his father well into his 60's, so, it could be much, much worse)... anyway, as Moses is tending to his father-in-laws flock he sees a burning bush, but the bush was not consumed... and just then God began to speak to Moses from this bush.

God tells Moses that he wants him to go free the Israelites.... and Moses' response is **“WHO AM I” TO DO THIS TASK?**

You see Moses feels deeply inadequate.... but the story continues in verse 13.

13 Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” 14 God said to Moses, **“I am who I am.”** And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I am has sent me to you.’” 15 God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people 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 thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.

Read:

And so in summary....God calls Moses and commissions him to go to Egypt and to bring his people out of bondage.

Moses is scared of this task before him, and raises the objection that he is not the person for the job.

God responds by saying.... “I WILL BE WITH YOU.”

But that wasn't quite good enough for Moses....so he inquires further...he asks, IF I go to the people what should I tell them your name is?

13 Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” 14 God said to Moses, **“I am who I am.”** And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I am has sent me to you.’” 15 God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people 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 thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.

And in God’s response here we find one of the most important revelations that has ever been given to mankind.

God’s response to this questions is... **I AM WHO I AM.**

In other words God is telling Moses to tell the people that the one who **SIMPLY** and **ABSOLUTELY IS** has sent you..... Tell them that the essential thing about me is that **I AM.**

This phrase, **“I AM WHO I AM”** speaks to the fact that GOD IS LIKE NO OTHER.

Majesty

What this means is that God didn't have a beginning and he will never have an ending.....He never improves or degrades..... He simply and absolutely IS... and He always has been.

These are the types of things that if you think about too long, they make your head hurt... 😊....but think about this.

The God who Colossians tells us is right now holding the entire Universe together....never had a beginning. *[Think about that.....Pause]*

And the reason why this is so difficult for us to comprehend and then believe IN FAITH....is because everything we have **ever seen** has had a beginning and will have an end.



Majesty

Everything in this room has had a beginning..... everything in Wilmington has had a beginning..... everything in this state, country, and world have had their beginnings. And they will each have their end.

But not God because He is I AM.

Church, if this is true then this means that God defines reality....when we come into being we stand before a God who made us, and knows us.

And with this in mind we cannot escape the simple and obvious truth that GOD MUST BE THE MAIN THING IN LIFE.....NOT US.

Majesty

And so back in our text... Moses is wrapped up in his own inadequacy.... feeling ill-equipped to lead....and God says to Moses “**I AM WITH YOU**”....therefore it doesn't matter that you are inadequate.....what MATTERS IS THAT **I AM**.

You see Moses would have felt much better standing before Pharaoh with what he perceived to be all the right tools to GET THE JOB DONE.

A great speaking voice....an Army of highly trained soldiers.....a few dozen ships to cross the Red Sea....Moses had none of these things..... BUT AS THE STORY UNFOLDS INADEQUATE MOSES PLACES HIS TRUST IN THE GREAT I AM, and as he did so the GLOFY OF GOD WAS REVEALED.

Majesty

You see church what we learn from Moses in this instance is that **The majesty of God, the great I AM, is revealed through our inadequacies.**

We don't like to feel inadequate....its probably one of the worst feeling a person can feel. But what we see over and over again throughout the entire Cannon of Scripture is that God loves taking inadequate people and using them for his Glory.

You see God doesn't want the self assured person....the one jumping up and down saying, "put me in Coach." No, he looks for the pimply faced kid at the end of the bench who doesn't even want to make the eye contact with the coach for FEAR that he might put him in.

Majesty

And then God hands him the ball and says, “make the game winning shot, not because you are but because **I AM.**”

[Pause]

You see church, God doesn't call the qualified he qualifies the called.....and I believe he does this because if he called the qualified, when we succeeded we would take the glory ALL for our own.

But God calls people like Moses, like Paul, like David, like Rahab, and Naomi because **THE MAJESTY OF GOD THE GREAT I AM IS REVEALED THOUGH OUR INADEQUACIES.**

I Corinthians 1:26 (ESV)

26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

This is why the Apostle Paul says in I Corinthians chapter 1 verse 26 ***READ: For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.***

Often we feel inadequate...and those feelings of not being good enough cause us to feel like God cannot use us. But Church the scriptures tell a different story...**God's word reveals that feeling inadequate is a prerequisite for God being able to use us.**

Majesty

Church we say, “I’m not good enough” and God says, “**that’s OK... I AM.**”

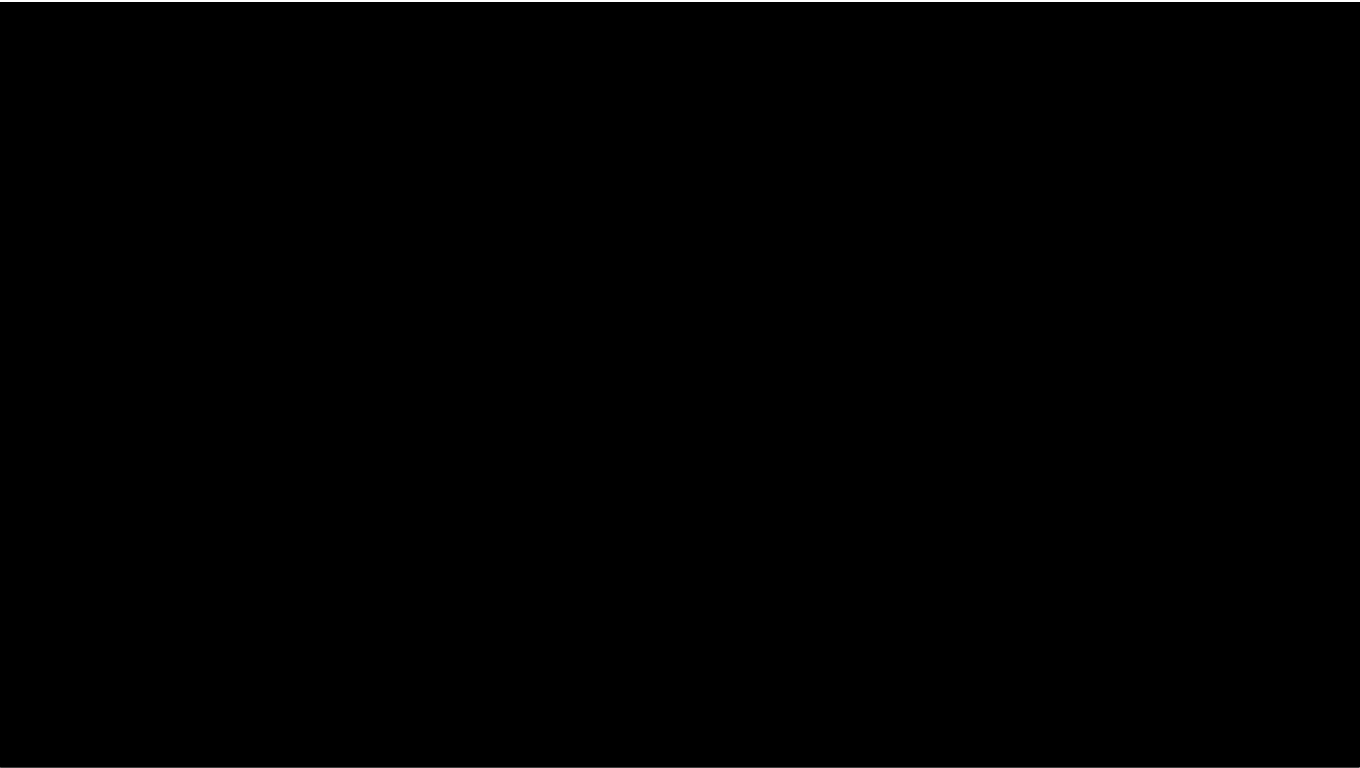
We say, “God I’m not wise enough” and God says, “**that’s alright your not... but I AM.**”

We say, “God I cannot do this I’m not strong enough,” and God says, “**are you DEAF... I AM.**”

Church the Glory of God will be made manifest though your weakness if you allow him.

He will be given glory through your trials, if you surrender them to Him.

And it is all because HE IS... the GREAT I AM.



Church I believe one of the main reasons why we often have a hard time gaining a grasp onto the concept of God being the GREAT, EVEREXISTENT, I AM.... is because we do not have a proper perspective on how GREAT HE IS AND HOW SMALL WE ARE.

Illus:

Church I want to give you some perspective of how incredibly small we are....here is the Earth...and here comes the rising sun.

- Our Moon
- Mars
- Jupiter
- Saturn
- Uranus
- Neptune
- *pluto
- Pillars of Creation, Eagle Nebula
- Spiral arms of the Milky Way
- Galaxy (the Milky Way stretches 100,000 light years across).
- Next we will be exiting the cluster of galaxies we live in known as the “local group.” This vast array of galaxies cover a distance of 10 million light years across...stretching infinitely into God’s majesty



Majesty

Do you feel small yet?

Mankind has wondered throughout the centuries as to the wonders of the Universe and the reason for the unbelievable expanse of the Heavens.

And I would contend that one of the reasons why the Universe is so big is to remind us of how **SMALL WE REALLY ARE.**

Because it is in us understanding our finiteness that we can then turn and marvel at God's infinitude.

God's glory and majesty is revealed in our lives when we look into the Heavens and ponder the cosmic mysteries and then believe that a sovereign Lord **HOLDS IT ALL TOGETHER.**



“We learned a lot about the Moon, but what we really learned was about the Earth. The fact that just from the distance of the Moon you can put your thumb up and you can hide the Earth behind your thumb. Everything that you’ve ever known, your loved ones, your business, the problems of the Earth itself-all behind your thumb. And how insignificant we really all are, but then how fortunate we are to have this body and to be able to enjoy loving here amongst the beauty of the Earth itself.”

~ JIM LOVELL

Illus:

I was talking with some friends not too long ago about the ***Majesty of God*** and I told them that I remembered hearing the testimony of NASA/Apollo 13 Astronaut Jim Lovell who said this about the moment he realized how truly small he was [!\[\]\(0f848bbd71cef6b345273b16f905912a_img.jpg\) **READ**](#)

Jim Lovell had the experience that I wish all of us could have.....he put up his thumb and as he did it covered up the Earth.....everything he ever knew, blocked out by the width of his thumb....Jim who is a Christian, goes onto talk about that being a defining moment in his life, him realizing the majesty of the great I AM.

And he came back down to this Earth with a completely new perspective.



Majesty

Church, *how might a deeper understanding of the Greatness of God change your life?*

Because you see I believe that we often relate to God like He is the small one..... when in reality NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH.

Too often we rely on ourselves..... to fix this, and to solve that when the GOD OF THE UNIVERSE is inviting us INTO RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM by way of the work Jesus did on the cross.....and the only entrance fee into this union with the King of Heaven is our own SURRENDER.



Illus:

You know since coming back from Israel, I've been asked by many people what was the most impactful part of the trip. And the moment I keep going back to is our time in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Here is a picture I took inside of the Garden. And a part of the reason I was so impacted by being in this place is because it is here that Jesus [himself] again SURRENDERED to the Father.

Before Jesus went to the cross to become our sacrifice he stopped here to pray, to connect with God the Father for strength. Jesus was in so much consternation concerning the brutality that lied before him that he was sweating blood.



Even so Jesus said, “*My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.*”

You see Church I believe that Christ’s ability to surrender to His Father...is linked with His understanding of the MAJESTY of His Father.

To Jesus God’s greatness was not an abstract idea....Jesus knew first hand all about the Majesty of God HE SURELY HAD STOOD IN THE THRONE ROOM AND SEEM GOD IN HIS INNATE GLORY.....and it was from that understanding that Jesus could offer up His life as a ransom for many.



The greatness of God's majesty is magnified when we are satisfied in Him; especially when we are suffering.

- John Piper



John Piper is quoted as saying, *“The greatness of God’s majesty is magnified when we are satisfied in Him; especially when we are suffering.”*

You see, Jesus was fully satisfied with God the Father in the Garden, even in the midst of his suffering.

Because Jesus knew as he prayed in this garden exactly who he was submitting himself to.....and so even though the task before him remained incredibly difficult. He took comfort in the fact that the THE GREAT I AM called him too it.

Jesus wasn't satisfied with His circumstances.....but he was satisfied with God the Father who stood above those circumstances.



The greatness of God's majesty is magnified when we are satisfied in Him; especially when we are suffering.

- John Piper



Church this directly applies to our lives as well. Because God is going to invite you and I into difficult tasks over the course of your lives *[some of you may have already noticed this trend 😊]*.

And it is our understanding of God's greatness/majesty [in those moments] that will allow us to lean into His will for us instead of running away.

Perhaps you have a challenge in life right now, a Mt. Everest that you feel you cannot climb.....ask yourself in the midst of the trials of life, “am I satisfied with God?” “Is He enough for me?” “Am I looking to man made things to comfort/distract me, when the majestic God of all is available to me?”



The greatness of God's majesty is magnified when we are satisfied in Him; especially when we are suffering.

- John Piper



You see Church John Piper couldn't be more correct here. When God's children live as though we are satisfied in Him and only Him.....God's majesty is magnified.

When you neighbors see that you've lost your job, but your still praising the Lord anyway.....God's majesty is magnified.

When you get a bad diagnosis, but you praise God in the midst of it because you know of your eternal home.....God's majesty is magnified.

When you've been betrayed, lied to, or hurt by someone you love, and you don't repay evil with evil but you overcome evil with good.....God's majesty is magnified.



The greatness of God's majesty is magnified when we are satisfied in Him; especially when we are suffering.

- John Piper



But friends it is only possible to live this way when we are satisfied with God.

Speaking personally, I am at my best as a husband, father, Pastor, when I am fully satisfied with God. When His Majesty is in full view, I am bulletproof from the enemies schemes.

Conversely when I look to this world for my satisfaction, Satan dances with glee, because he knows he can tempt me with the false majesty of this world.

Likewise many of us are deceived by false versions of majesty, when the real things is available to us.

Isaiah 40:12-17 (ESV)

12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? 13 Who has measured the Spirit of the Lord, or what man shows him his counsel? 14 Whom did he consult, and who made him understand? Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding?

I'd like to begin to close our time this morning by looking at a passage of scripture that will help us to understand how/why we should be satisfied with our MAJESTIC GOD.

Please turn in your Bibles to the book of Isaiah chapter 40... ..as we close we are going to look at the Prophets words concerning our MAJESTIC GOD.

As we read this passage Isaiah is going to ask a series of rhetorical questions that speak to the wonder and majesty of God. And all of these rhetorical questions all have the same answer **I AM.**

Read: ↑

15 Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust. 16 Lebanon would not suffice for fuel, nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering. 17 All the nations are as nothing before him, they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.

Continue Reading:↑

Church you see the Prophet Isaiah had these truths revealed to him long before a single telescope had been invented.

Here Isaiah speaks to the infinite knowledge and skill the Lord possesses. No one on Earth can claim to have taught the Lord anything.

He did not need to consult anyone...and since God's creation is so grandiose, the people of the nations are as nothing before Him (like a mere drop of water or dust particles on scales.)



Majesty

Therefore God is worthy of our satisfaction..... in fact He is the only thing that ever could satisfy us.

And better yet, this great, powerful, self-sustaining God, HE LOVES YOU!

Yes, HE LOVES YOU PERSONALLY and He sent His Son, His Best to redeem you, to give you the opportunity to become a vessel that would likewise bring Glory to THE FATHER.

Will you receive this gift of life offered by God through His Son Jesus?

If you already have, will you endeavor to make Him your only satisfaction?

Majesty

[Pause]

In the Gospel of John we see that Jesus begins to do something rather interesting that is one of the things that ultimately drives His detractors to have him crucified.

You see, Jesus takes the name **I AM**....which up to that time had only been used by God....and he began applying it to himself.

When Jesus was ministering throughout Judea and he encountered someone at a point of weakness in their life he DECLARED TO THEM **I AM**.

Majesty

- To those in darkness he declared... ***I AM THE LIGHT.***
- To those who thirst....he says ***I AM THE LIVING WATER.***
- To those who felt lost..... he said ***I AM THE WAY.***
- To those who felt confused....he said ***I AM THE TRUTH.***
- To those who felt they were under the curse of death....he said ***I AM THE LIFE.***
- To those who felt insufficient....he said ***I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD.***
- To those who need a fresh start..... he said ***I AM THE DOOR.***
- To those crushed by guilt... ***I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE.***
- To the powerless he says.... ***I AM YOUR DEFENSE.***



Majesty

Church our Great Majestic God... who is the GREAT I AM... wants to take His majesty and have it shine forth from our lives.

You don't have to be "qualified enough"... and actually as we stated earlier the less prepared you are "perhaps" the better so pride doesn't do us in.

Because you see it's not about what we can do... it never is... it never was... and it never will be.

IT IS ALL ABOUT HIM... what he can do... and what He has done through His Son Jesus. My prayer is that we will surrender to HIM... so that His Majesty might be revealed through us His Church.

PRAY: