

Immerse

WHO AM I?

On the Go Devotional Guide

By Rev. Peter A. Thompson

Pastor- First Presbyterian Church (Lynchburg, VA)

Fundamental Notes:

Purpose: Explore, discover. Grow. The purpose of this devotional is to provide another way for us to engage God and God's Word, reassuring us that God is with us wherever we are, no matter what we might be doing. This devotional is not a substitute for church. This devotional is not meant to replace the focus or importance of being in community with others in our faith exploration, discovery, and growth.

Goal: The last time I checked, none of us have all the answers. The goal of this devotional is to wrestle with God's word and open the door (window) for God to speak to us. When we wrestle, we provide a platform of opportunity to be shaped and formed (like a potter at the wheel) to God's intended purpose. Asking questions on our own, rather than simply take another person's word for it, helps us develop our independent character and grow stronger in self.

Structure: At the front end of this devotional guide are things meant to center your focus. You may read them one at a time and one each day, or you can dive in head first and double team them. The one activity I would like to encourage everyone to take time on, is "Yes And." This activity gets at the core of validating the importance of all we learn through our faith and involvement in church and all we learn by participating in extracurricular activities.

One a Day. Two a Days. Two sides of the coin: As you reach the core lessons, you will find that they are labeled as A and B. Sometimes, there is even a "Consider This" addendum. There are many consistent themes throughout scripture and as we might already know, there are often two sides to consider within each theme. The layout of this devotional is meant to give the flexibility to explore the devotions one each day, if you are away for a weekend, or if you have a group gathered, you are welcome to take each topic in its entirety. The "Consider This" addendum provides further thought to consider and dig deeper. In essence, the hope is for you to use how it works best for you.

Initial Thought: This thought comes at the beginning of each devotional as insight to what and where the devotional topic might be leading. This thought is meant to give you a taste of what is to come and make you hungry to dig deeper.

What Now? This thought comes at the close of each devotional as an ending challenge or question. What we explore and discover through the devotions should not end with the turning of each page. Our growth through this journey will be dependent on our ability to listen and learn and leverage our knowledge throughout our lives. This thought will work to help us build a bridge back to the church or worship community that grounds us. It will remind us of how we can stay connected when we are away, and if the opportunity presents itself, challenge us to come back and share our experiences and discoveries with others. We are all called to be the light and a candle is only as good as the light it shares.

Consider This: This section is for digging deeper. None of these devotions cover everything there is to know about the topic. This section provides additional scripture references, reflections, or stories to consider.

Practice: The scripture readings for each devotional are cited, but you are strongly encouraged to open the good book, open an app, look in the top drawer of the hotel dresser, or pack a bible-to-go.

Who am I?

I am your constant companion.

I am your greatest helper or heaviest burden.

I will push you onward or drag you down to failure.

I am completely at your command.

Half the things I do, you might as well turn over to me, and I will be able to do them quickly and correctly.

I am easily managed- you must merely be firm with me.

Show me exactly how you want something done and after a few lessons I will do it automatically.

I am the servant of all great individuals and, alas, of all failures, as well.

Those who are great, I have made great.

Those who are failures, I have made failures.

I am not a machine, though I work with all the precision of a machine plus the intelligence of a human.

You may run me for a profit or run me for ruin- it makes no difference to me.

Take me, train me, be firm with me, and I will place the world at your feet.

Be easy with me and I will destroy you.

Who am I?

If you don't know anything else, know these things...

Love- You are loved. More than you know. You have a circle of people who love you totally and want good things for you. They hurt when you hurt and rejoice when you rejoice.

Gifted- You alone have talents, insights, ideas and inventions unique to you and the world is a better place with you sharing your gifts. Share your gifts and know they are worthy.

Constant- You are both the same and changing- constantly. While your core beliefs and values and personality traits remain the same, your opinions, tastes and interests may be changing. Be who you are because there is no room to be someone else.

Undecided- Contrary to what the world thinks, you don't have to have all the answers. Seek first who God has created you to be and you will become everything you need to be.

Responsibility- You aren't responsible for everyone else's happiness, but you are responsible for your actions. As hard as we might try, we can't control others. We can do our part to the best of our ability and leave the rest up to others.

Worth- You are immeasurably valuable. You are created good. You are created in God's image. Treat yourself with that respect and others too. Doing so changes every interaction, informs every choice and facilitates authentic and abundant life.

Confident- Don't worry about how you might be perceived by others. This doesn't mean you can be oblivious to how you interact with others, but it is an invitation for you to be free of the constant judgment that might come from others.

Purpose- Nothing is wasted in God's economy. Twists and turns, disappointments, accomplishments, and failures are all free game for God's purposes. Our biggest mistakes can often teach us the most. Not everything that happens, happens for a reason, but everything that happens does have meaning.

Gratitude- Cultivate thankfulness, joy, and beauty. The attitude of gratitude is contagious. When you are grateful and express it, when you are joyful and demonstrate it, and when you notice beauty and point it out, you keep finding more and more to celebrate.

Trust- Trust that all will be well. We must have faith and believe that all things work together for good (Romans 8:28). If things are bad, remember that your story is not yet over. God doesn't abandon us, God delivers us (Psalm 107).

What Now?

If you were to tell someone only 7 things about you, what would you say? Make a list using one word or a short phrase like rock, leader, spark, mother, coach, athletic, funny, etc. What do you feel best describes you?

1. I AM...

2. I AM...

3. I AM...

4. I AM...

5. I AM...

6. I AM...

7. I AM...

When Jesus had the opportunity to do this activity, do you know what 7 things he used to describe himself? In Greek, *ego eimi*, means "I AM," and in the Gospel of John, Jesus was quoted making 7 bold declarations to help everyone know who he is.

1. **"I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE"** (John 6:35)
 - a. Daily Sustenance, Nourishment
2. **"I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD"** (John 8:12)
 - a. Revelation, Guide, Hope, Victor over Darkness
3. **"I AM THE GATE"** (John 10:9)
 - a. Threshold, Entrance
4. **"I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD"** (John 10:11)
 - a. Protector, Servant, Guard
5. **"I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE"** (John 11:25)
 - a. Eternal, Victor over Death
6. **"I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE"** (John 14:6)
 - a. Path, Direction, Victor over Falsehood
7. **"I AM THE TRUE VINE"** (John 15:1)
 - a. Source of Life, Fuel, Food, Fruit

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