Welcome back. If you were not here last week, here is a little recap of what we talked about. As we went through the lesson, we talked about a series of I AM statements. These I AM statements are true because of the fact that we are children of God. The I AM statements that we discussed last week included:

1. I am a new person in Christ
2. I am chosen
3. I am forgiven
4. I am conqueror

If you want to learn more about those particular I AM statements, please so back a take a listen to last week’s sermon. This week, we are going to continue our series on I AM statements, by looking into several more. All of these statements are not true because I’m talking about them, but because they can be backed up by the word of God.

**I AM Valuable**

 All of the I AM statements that we are going to talk about today, are, if nothing else, very positive affirmations that we should be saying to ourselves every day. The first one that I want to explore this morning is I AM VALUABLE. What is more valuable, $1 million in bricks or $1 million in feathers? At face value they are the same; however, what if we use the bricks to build churches and the feathers to make pillows for the homeless…what is more valuable then? I guess it would depend on who’s perspective you are looking from. Things are valuable to different people for different reasons. However, there are countless reasons that we are valuable to God.

 The first reason we are valuable to God, is because of who we are. And who we are, is someone who has been made in God’s image. Genesis 1:26 says “Then God said, let us make mankind in our image, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” Many years ago, when God created everything, you were the focus of His love. He valued us so much, that he was willing to create us to be like him. That is powerful love.

The second reason that we are valuable to God is because of what we cost. Ephesians 1:5, which says “He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.” As some folks in this room know, adoption is a very expensive and time-consuming process. However, our adoption by God is the most valuable and costly of all…it cost God his son, Jesus. We obviously don’t know the exact conversation, but it seems like God sacrificed his son without a second thought, which is something no one in this room could do…just another reason that God will forever be greater than me.

The final reason that we are so valuable to God is because of what you can become. We are LOVED by God, and when we were adopted by Him, God created a plan for our lives. Ephesians 1:11-12 says “In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined to the purpose of Him who works all thing according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

So whenever we get discouraged and start to think that God has forgotten about us, or doesn’t have a way to use us, remember that His plan for you was laid out long before you were ever a twinkle in your mother’s eye.

**I AM Enough**

 Now our second daily affirmation, and I AM statement is I AM Enough. One of the hot button topics of the past few years has been mental health. For some people, this is an eyeroll phrase…one where they roll their eyes and think that other people should just suck it up. For others, being inside of their own mind can be a real struggle. Despite your initial thoughts when you hear the term mental health, I know that we have all had moments when we have felt like we just aren’t enough. Whether it was as an employee or as a son/daughter or as a parent or as a husband/wife or a Christian, we have all had moment or spells of personal struggle, because we felt less than ourselves, less than worthy of someone else’s love and adoration. I will be the first to admit that I have had struggles with my self-worth over time. However, despite these moments of mental weakness, we can be assured that God thinks that we are enough, and when it comes right down to it, does anyone else’s thoughts really matter?

 2 Corinthians 12:9 gives us this reassurance, because it says “But he said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.” Like I said, if God thinks we are enough, does anyone else’s opinion really matter? Nah. Not the nosey neighbor. Not the cutthroat co-worker. Not the salty stranger. Only God.

**I AM Strong**

 This takes us into our third I AM statement of the morning, which is I AM STRONG. When I say I am strong, am I talking about physical strength? Maybe…I mean looking out at y’all, a lot of you look mighty strong…and you better believe I’m strong, lol. Despite all that strength, we all know that I am not talking about physical strength, but strength that comes through the Lord. Now there is some mighty, mighty, mighty strength. He could whoop anyone in a strong man contest or in arm wrestling, but His greatest strength is that that he shares with us.

 Despite all my silliness, what I am actually saying is that our strength comes through the Lord, and with that strength, we are able to do things that we never imagined that we would be able to do. Some verses that back this up are Deuteronomy 31:6 (Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.), Isaiah 40:31 (But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.), and Exodus 15:2 (The Lord is my strength and my defense; he has become by salvation. He is my God, and I will praise Him, my father’s God, and I will exalt Him.).

An old phrase that I have long heard, is that you always have to be ready to do three things: preach, pray, or die. We might not want to die at this exact second (though I’m not sure of a better place to do it), or maybe preaching or praying in public might feel like physical death to you, but God’s strength will get us through those moments. Through that strength, we are able to do amazing things. Look at all those people in the bible that God empowered:

* Moses – who led the Israelites across the Red Sea and away from Pharaoh’s army
* Ester – who saved the Jewish people, despite HUGE odds being stacked against her
* David – who defeated Goliath
* Paul – who lost his freedom and was imprisoned multiple times throughout his ministry
* Job – who lost his large family, livestock, his good health, and plentiful wealth

If God can get these people through all of these amazingly difficult and stressful times, He is more than capable of getting us through any situations that we face today.

**I AM Wonderfully Made**

 As we make our way to the fourth of our I AM statements for today, I want you to think…have you ever made mistake? If you think really hard, you MIGHT be able to think of 1 or 2…million…mistakes that we have made throughout your lifetime. Now if we think, he God ever made a mistake? If you are going to try and find a mistake that God has made, you may be sitting there for a while…or forever. That’s because God has never made a mistake…EVER…and especially not when he made you. So, there is our fourth I AM statement, I AM Wonderfully Made.

 Psalms 139: 13-14 help us to understand what this means, as it says, “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I will praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful; I know that full well.” There are many people in this world, including my father-in-law Don, who are master craftsmen. However, no one can make things quite like God can. Jeremiah 1:5 says, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” So not only did not make you, just the way that you were supposed to be made, but he also chose you to be a prophet. That sounds rather familiar doesn’t it…you know, from about 10 minutes ago.

 Ephesians 2:10 says, “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Congregation, we are HIS workmanship…and we already established the God has never, and will never, make a mistake…so that means that we are perfect in His eyes. That means that no matter what is “wrong” with us, that we are exactly as God intended us. It doesn’t matter if we are big and strong or sickly and weak. It doesn’t matter if we are able bodied, wealthy, and well connected…or poor, crippled, or blind. It doesn’t matter because God has created us exactly the way that he wants us, so that he can use us in exactly the way that he intended. We might not see His plan and His vision right away, but with patience and prayer, we can.

 Never lose faith in God. Never doubt that He has something very special in store for you, because when God creates something, it is perfect in His eyes, whether we immediately see it or not.

**I AM an Heir of God**

 As we begin to whined down today, I want to thank you for following along with me over the last two weeks. As I said at the beginning last week, I was inspired to give these lessons by a simple social media post. So, as we leave this place today, I want you to remember that it is not always the big things that are important, but the small things that happen along the way that can impact people the most.

This brings me to that last of our I AM statements that I want to briefly discuss, which is, I AM an heir of God. When I was younger, I always thought that it would be awesome to be the heir to some long-lost, uncle who was as wealthy as Scrooge McDuck. With this magical money, I would be able to buy a mansion on the beach, never have to work again, and do all the things that I love to do. Then one day, I sadly realized that I would never have a wealthy uncle (unless one of you want to make me your nephew). But with the realization, came the realization that I have something much better than that, I have a heavenly father who makes me valuable, tells me I’m enough, makes me strong, tells me I’m enough, and has a mansion prepared for me in Heaven.

I can have this assurance, and all of these things, because I am an heir of God. Romans 8:17 assures us of this when it tells us, “Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.” As an only child, I have no earthly brother, but I have a brother in Christ Jesus, and brothers and sisters in all of you…and because of that, I am blessed. There are three reasons why we are heirs of God.

1. Because we are children of God
2. Because we are redeemed from the curse
3. Because we are joint heirs with Jesus

I don’t know about you church family, but it is going to be quite the family reunion when we all get to heaven. We might not be eating homemade food and playing cornhole and horseshoes, but we will be singing God’s praises for all of eternity…and that sounds pretty darn good to me.

**Conclusion**

 So, remember, when you are having a tough day or are going through a tough spell in your life, or when you want some daily affirmations to start your day or you just want to share some good news with someone that you are sharing a moment with, I want you to remember the nine things that we have talked about over the last two weeks:

1. I am a new person in Christ
2. I am valuable
3. I am chosen
4. I am forgiven
5. I am enough
6. I am strong
7. I am a conqueror
8. I am wonderfully made
9. I am an heir of God

If you know those things to be true today, let me hear an Amen!