

At news Ralph's baby boy, AQ ran across field! Good news uncontainable! ¿Way you feel about Gospel? Days of fear. Terror anywhere/anytime. Satan governs by fear: steal joy, silence Gospel: [Jn10.10,15.11](#) [Jb13.11-12](#) Ignorance ≠ bliss. Confidence & Joy go hand in hand. What is the basis of our confidence, faith, trust? Truth! It's true: doctrine divides—[Lk12.51](#)—but also basis of unity, confidence & t4: **solid Joy!** Rock-solid Doctrine is foundation of creative, sacrificial, death-defying, life-giving joy. When fearful, we withdraw & withhold. When confident, when nothing can rob our joy, we give freely & richly. We Live! U? Today, begin short 5wk series entitled Gospel Doctrine, parallel in Restore w/Sustain 101: *the Gospel*

Where Good News Begins (Exodus 3.13-15)

*Ex3.13-15* Here is most basic & ultimate Truth: **God Is!** Nothing matters more in all the earth. In fact: no earth, nothing, unless *God is*. Nothing is more basic to life, breathing, birth, singleness, marriage, work, play, thinking, creativity, gardening, or our galaxy. Nothing is more essential to Truth, to Scriptures & t4 to the Gospel & the Glory of Jesus Christ than **2 simple words: I am.**

So simple. So simple that it's incredibly difficult to grasp, but so worth the burnt brain cells.

Context: Israel: aliens in Egypt, innumerable slaves. Ph kills boys, but Providence protects Moses. After killing Egyptian, M flees to Midian, meets God in burning bush: [Ex3.6-12](#), then our passage: [13-15](#)

*14a* Before God would give His name, before making connections w/Ms Abrahamic-heritage: "Know this about Me: **I Am!**" Is, Are, Be, Present, Now, Always, Ever, Absolute, Bottom, Bedrock, Base.

*14b* Still no name, but connects I Am to Ms being sent: the I Am is Present & Active, Actor: Sender!

*15* Then, restates same, but this time w/His name: LORD, YHWH. Completely holy, other: unique.

Still struggling? Sense importance, but still difficult to get heart & mind around it, huh? More brain cells:

I Am: ever present! Abi asked me not long ago: Who made God? No one! No beginning, ever. Always is! and t4: never ending. He is reality. No reality outside of Him, nothing will come after Him, replace Him.

He is, and has always been: so, He depends on nothing! He is Ultimate Declaration of Independence!

Since He is before all, all else comes from & depends totally on Him: word of His power -[Hb1.3](#)

all else incomparable: comparing ever-expanding universe to Him :: molecule of mist to Pacific Ocean [Da4.35](#)

He Is: constant, never-changing, always same ([Hb13.8](#)) God is not improving, getting better: ever-perfect

He Is absolute (not qualified or diminished in anyway) standard: truth, excellence, righteousness. counsel

[Ps115.3](#) Nothing restricts/hinders Him. Governs all creation/angels/demons for His ultimate purpose [Mt8.28-31](#)

T4 nothing is more important, vital, precious, valuable, glorious, more worthy of your time, affection, love, texts, tweets, or brain cells in all of life, with all of life put together!

So in closing, obvious Q: If God is so vastly glorious, so beautiful: How sinful must it be that He is so ignored?

Who in their right mind would think so little of Him, treat w/such disdain? All of us; none in right mind.

And this is why the Gospel is of such infinite importance: Good News. It answers the question:

How can we be made right with the One we have treated so wrong?

Join us for the rest of the series, won't you? Free copies of Sustain 101 available at Restore this week.