



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

I Problem

When I was an Awana leader, I made up a game called I. Each person started with four strips of paper with the word I on it. Each time a person would use the word I, they would lose one strip of paper. The last person losing all their papers would be the winner. Everyone soon learned that a person uses I a lot.

In Modern English, I is the singular, first-person pronoun. I originated from Old English (OE) ic, which had in turn originated from the continuation of Proto-Germanic *ik, and ek.¹ The King James Bible was written while using Old English words like thee and thou. (I am glad they did not use ic for I. "Here ic am. Use me.") There are only two letters in the English alphabet that are words and only one is capitalized.

I could be used in a negative way. Example: "I am the greatest. I want this." The middle letter of sin and pride is I. Pride is mentioned in the Bible many times as sin. It is often stated that "Pride cometh before a fall." But this is not the only I problem that we as humans can have. I had the following problem for years.

The lack of self-worth, self-confidence, self-identity, self-direction, and self-assurance is a part of many persons' personality. It may be caused by a difference in physical appearance, mental ability, health issues, social status, ethnic background, religious belief, events, hormones, people, criticism, and environment. The results can cause depression, withdrawal, negativism, loneliness, lack of faith, drug and sex dependence, bi-polar disorder, loss of joy, inability to give or accept love, and even suicide. In this case, I is your worst enemy and you cannot hide from I. To overcome this, you must look up and not in.

God made you: "For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them!" PS 139:13-17 "Thou hast clothed me with skin and flesh, and hast fenced me with bones and sinews. Thou hast granted me life and favour, and thy visitation hath preserved my spirit." Job 10:11,12 God does not make junk!

God is molding you: "But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand." Is 64:8

God will strengthen your weakness: "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." II Cor. 12:9

God has chosen you: "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty." I Cor 1:17

God looks at your heart: "The Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." I Sam 15:7

God will strengthen you: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil 4:13

God is calling you: "Behold, I am here, Lord." Acts 9:10

God has a plan, a purpose, a reason and wants to use **you**. You are important. Do not say I can't.



Faith

Charles L Stambaugh Mt Wolf, PA

Christ died for you: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me." Gal 2:19

Read about the I problem Moses had in Exodus 4.

Surrender both your
prideful **I** and your
lack of self-worth **I** to
the cross. They are
both s**I**n.

¹[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_\(pronoun\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_(pronoun))

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