

**Author:** Jo Grey

**Song:** *Jesus, Lamb of God, You are My All in All*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVn1BEAWqcc>

**Prayer:** Lord, renew our minds to see Your purpose in calling us, the beauty of our Savior, and the hope of Your grace.

**Text:** 2 Timothy 1:9

**Explanation:**

Baptists have been singing, “Just as I am, without one plea,” for many generations. Most of the over-30 crowd has heard the hymn during an altar call, and many of us heard the Holy Spirit’s low whisper while the congregation was singing. We’re in good company. Even Billy Graham gave his life to Christ to the tune of *Just as I Am*, and then used the old familiar hymn at his crusades all around the world.

“Just as I am” is a simple acknowledgement of our lack of qualification for God’s gift of salvation. We can’t rub off the spots or work off our debt, but when we come confessing our need for the Lamb of God to “cleanse each spot,” we are leaning into God’s promise to cleanse, pardon, and receive us. We can also cooperate with the Holy Spirit as He reveals the dark places that remain. As we grow in gratitude for the acceptance God has given to us in Christ Jesus, our love for Him will grow as well as our motivation to be holy as He is holy.

**The Point:** We are called to **holy living**, not *by* our works, but *by responding* in obedience to God’s saving work of grace given to us **in Christ Jesus**.

**Application:**

**Pre-K & Elementary Age:** Has your young child learned the truth of the gospel?

You may refer to the attached link for an easy object lesson about salvation. You’ll need one hard-boiled egg and a permanent black marker. <https://ministry-to-children.com/salvation-object-lesson/>

Or simply read the following statements and/or Scripture verses aloud. Repeat these truths often and plant God’s Word in their minds and hearts.

- God is holy. (Lev. 19:2)
- We’re sinners and our sin separates us from God. (Romans 3:10, 23)
- But God gave His holy Son, the perfect spotless Lamb of God, to die instead of us. (Romans 5:8)
- If we believe in Jesus, God will save us from our sins and give us life forever. (Romans 10:9)

**Middle & High School Students:** Do you even understand the extent of your sin and how offensive it is to our **holy** God? You cannot save yourself. Someone had to take the punishment and suffer the death you deserved. If you’re filled with gratitude for what Jesus did for you, you’ll discover your “ought to” changing to “want to.” If gratitude isn’t your attitude, ask yourself, “How well do I know my Savior?” If you’ve grown up in church, you likely know about Him. But, Do. You. Know. Him? How is it even possible to know the God of the universe, the King of the ages, the Savior of the world? First, He makes it possible through Scripture. Does it seem when you read the Bible that God is speaking to you? Does He talk to you about your sin and guilt? About repentance? Do you hear Him saying things like, “Come to Me... I’ll never leave you... I love you?” Next, make time each day to investigate what else He’s saying. What commands does He give, what promises does

He make? Commit yourself to looking for Jesus everywhere and talking with Him about everything. To know Him is to love Him, and to love Him is to obey Him.

**Adults:** Have any of you, like me, carried the lingering weight of past failure? Maybe you've confessed the sin, but the failure has a chokehold on your life. You think, "Maybe if I'd just done better or been more diligent about spiritual things I wouldn't be living with regrets." Do you think your best might have reached God's standard of holiness? Or how about this: "If only I could go back for a re-do or replay." With a gazillion re-dos would you ever have been a perfect spouse, parent, friend? Isn't it a relief to let go of an impossibility! It's time to accept that what God did is much better. Instead of giving you a re-do, He's made you brand new—in **Christ**! Out of gratitude, make regular time for prayer and Bible reading. Let the Holy Spirit continue the work He's begun. Take each daily circumstance and each moment as an opportunity to become more like Jesus.

**Empty Nesters:** If you haven't already done so, it's time to number your days. Focus your thoughts with greater longing on God's promises of heaven and glorious life with Him. You don't know the exact number of your days on earth, but you know you have one less than yesterday. Are you making each one count? The beauty of this time of life is the joy God has promised, and how close you are to being sin-and-sorrow-free. If the pursuit of holiness still seems like one step forward, two steps back, it may be because you're more aware of your sin than ever before. Remember, His grace is sufficient for every sin—past, present, future. Are you grateful?

**Song:** *Just as I Am*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zOjLXuJgbd0>

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, we come just as we are. Help us become doers of the Word, and not only hearers, so that we may love You with all our hearts and minds and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves.

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