

## Increasingly Decrease 2019-02-10

### John 3:27-30

*John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. He must increase, but I must decrease."*

Here declaration of God's sovereignty and concise statement regarding the sanctifying work of Holy Spirit in every Christians life.

- Walking in these truths will bring glory to God and joy for believer.

Believing in God's sovereignty produced peace/joy in John the Baptist . John 3:25-26

- Evidently Jew provoked John the Baptist's disciples: John the Baptist influence decreased & Jesus' influence increased.
  - Became jealous, frustrated because wrongly believed Jesus was their competition not the culmination of their ministry. Philippeans 1:15-18
- LEFC not in competition with other churches/ministries.
  - If preach gospel and accurately teach Word, we are on same team.
    - LEFC not desire success in eyes of world but being faithful in fulfilling His unique sovereign plan for LEFC...great or small.

John the Baptist knew he not have power to make himself great yet found joy in trusting God's sovereignty and being satisfied with God's plan for his life. John 3:27-28, 1 Corinthians 4:7, Matthew 25:21

- God's sovereignty does not mean slack off and blame lack of results on God's sovereignty.....John the Baptist kept preach/baptize even when knew end near.
  - Rather knowing everything we have is by God's free grace and faithfully using all given for His purpose/glory.
    - If don't have it, you don't need it to fulfill God's plan for your life.

Like John the Baptist: you will find joy in being satisfied with who God has made you, where God has you and what His purpose is for your life. John 3:28-30

- John the Baptist understood he forerunner/witness to Messiah and that Jesus' coming meant fulfillment of his purpose and completion of his proclamation.
  - "Must" indicates this in accordance with God's sovereign, eternal plan.
  - Jesus Christ as bridegroom affirmed Jesus Christ as deity: In Old Testament God is Israel's bridegroom.
- "best man" middleman between bride/groom during betrothal (6-12 months) and on wedding day present bride to bridegroom and disappear/get out of way.
  - best man enjoyed/delighted seeing his friend, bridegroom, honored.
    - As Jesus' influence and popularity increased, John the Baptist influence/popularity decreased but in "decreasing" John the Baptist received fullness of joy.

7 beautiful words sum up Holy Spirit's process of sanctification as He works in Chrisitan's life which results in abundant joy. John 3:29-30, 1 Peter 1:15, Matthew 13:44

- Logically.....if Jesus increases then necessarily I must decrease.

- We must be increasingly decreasing.
- Daily treasure Jesus above all else because He alone is above all else. John 3:31-36
  - Joyfully yield all areas of our life to God's sovereignty and plan
- Be preoccupied with making Jesus preeminent, not self and fleshly, worldly desires.
  - Pursue with Holy Spirit's empowerment to be like Jesus in thoughts, words, deeds.
    - Be satisfied with Jesus Christ, God's provision and plan for our lives.

Christian life simplified in these few verses.

- Trust in God's sovereignty....be content with His plan for your life.
  - Humbly decrease so Jesus will gloriously increase.
    - Then by God's grace you will experience what John the Baptist did....a great, deep, ever increasing joy....regardless of circumstances.