

## **FOLLOW – Joy in the Decrease**

**October 22-23, 2022**

**Psalm 139:1-4 (NIV)** – “You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely”.

**Psalm 139:16 (NIV)** - “Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be”.

**Matthew 6:27 (NIV)** – “Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”

**1 Timothy 1:13-16 (NIV)** – “Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display His immense patience as an example for those who would believe in Him and receive eternal life”.

**John 3:30 (NIV)** – “He must become greater; I must become less”;

**John 3:30 (NKJV)** - “He must increase, but I must decrease”.

“You will never glory in God until first of all God has killed your glorying in yourself” – ***Charles Spurgeon***

**Matthew 3:4-8 (NIV)** – “John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance”.

**Matthew 3:11 (NIV)** – “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes One who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire”.

## **FOLLOW – Joy in the Decrease**

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**John 3:25-26 (NIV)** – An argument developed between some of John’s disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial washing. They came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan – the One you testified about – look, He is baptizing, and everyone is going to him”.

**John 3:27-30 (NIV)** – To this John replied, “A person can receive only what is given them from heaven. You yourselves can testify that I said, ‘I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of Him’. The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom’s voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. He must become greater; I must become less”.

**1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NIV)** - “Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly – mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?”

“The carnal Christian is a child of God, born again and on his way to heaven, but he is traveling third class” – ***Alan Redpath***

**1 Corinthians 3:4-8 (NIV)** – “For when one says, ‘I follow Paul’, and another, ‘I follow Apollos’, are you not mere human beings? What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe – as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor”.

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“Some people are frustrated because they want to water when God has called them to plant, or they want to plant when God has called them to water. Others are frustrated because they want to make the increase happen, when only God can do that. Real fruitfulness in ministry happens when we are peacefully content with what God has called us to do” –

***Pastor David Guzik***

**Romans 11:34-36 (NIV)** – “Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been His counselor? Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them? For from Him and through Him and for Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen”.