

# I MUST DECREASE

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## Four steps of decreasing

**John 3:22** — After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing.

### I. Time with Jesus -

#### Enjoy a DAWG Day! (Day Alone With God)

**Acts 4:13** — Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

**John 3:23,24** — John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized (for John had not yet been put in prison).

**John 3:25,26** — Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him."

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### II. Point people to Jesus

**John 3:27,28** — John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. 28 You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.'"

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**John 3:29** — 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.

### III. Complete Joy

**I John 1:1-4** — That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

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**John 3:30,31** — He must increase, but I must decrease." He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all.

### IV. God must increase

**Psalms 113:4** — The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens!

**John 3:32-36** — He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

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**T.D. Jakes** — *There are some fires you can't get out of--you've got to go through the fire--you've got to go through the flood--you've got to go through the test--you've got to go through the struggle that you might decrease and he might increase.*

**D.L. Moody** — *Happiness is caused by things that happen around me, and circumstances will mar it; but joy flows right on through trouble; joy flows on through the dark; joy flows in the night as well as in the day; joy flows all through persecution and opposition.*

**D.L. Moody** — *The beginning of greatness is to be little; the increase of greatness is to be less; the perfection of greatness is to be nothing.*

**C.S. Lewis** — *I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.*