

HE MUST INCREASE, BUT I MUST DECREASE

“He must increase, but I must decrease.”

*“He who comes from [heaven] above is above all others;
he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks [about things] of the earth
[his viewpoint and experience are earthly].
He who comes from heaven is above all.”*

John 3:30-31 AMP

Jesus Is Calling Us To Sanctification

Jesus is calling us to sanctification. Sanctification is choosing to be set apart as God's property, not the world's. Sanctification involves a deep purification. Purifying ourselves of the programs, desires, inclinations *“of the earth.”*

“A man cannot serve two masters,” admonishes our Lord Jesus Christ. Which master shall you serve? Are you living a hybrid version of spirituality? Sometimes living God's way, some or mostly living the earth's ways?

The only true way to sanctification is to continually choose to decrease ourselves, so that Jesus may increase, as John the Baptist proclaimed.

So That Jesus May Increase & We May Decrease, We Pray....

I Commit to Decrease

- ◆ Dear Father God, Your beautiful, faithful son John the Baptist summed up the way of sanctification very simply: that I must decrease in worldliness, in the ways of this world, in order for Christ Jesus to be increased in this world. I must decrease in my ego, my ways, my agendas, beliefs, views, opinions, desires, ambitions, personality traits and flaws. I must decrease in all that is not originally from You, in order that Christ should increase in me.
- ◆ So Heavenly Father, I commit to denying myself, to renouncing all that is not part of Your Divine Will for me and my life, to carrying my cross in whatever way that looks

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like day to day. I commit to self-examining and listening to your still voice, the Holy Spirit, whispering to me corrections and re-directions that keep me on this self-denial path of sanctification to the goal of eternal life with You.

Sanctify My Thoughts

- ◆ Dear Lord God, everything good or evil begins in the minds of men. Heavenly Father, help me to sanctify my thoughts, and the source and cause of the contents of my thoughts. For Matthew 9:4 convicts me: *“But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, ‘Why do you think evil in your hearts?’”* Lord God, I do NOT want to have evil in my heart nor in my thoughts! Purify my mind and heart Heavenly Father!
- ◆ Heavenly Father, I submit my mind to your Mind. I lay at the feet of Jesus the source and cause of my thoughts and my ego. I commit to not entertaining negativity about others; to not indulging in repetitive, negative, non-constructive thoughts. I commit to replacing these mental-thought habits with the practice of yielding to your Spirit. I recognize that I can do this anytime and anywhere.
- ◆ I commit to decreasing by *taking every thought captive to obey Christ*, according to 2 Corinthians 10:5.
- ◆ Dear Abba, *sanctify me by the truth; Your Word is truth*, according to John 17:17. As I decrease in all that I am, sanctify my thoughts, words, heart and deeds by Your Living Word.

Sanctify My Speech

- ◆ Holy Father God, speech is the content — the words, but it is also the way that words are spoken, and all the accompanying verbal and nonverbal elements to any speech; the tone, a look, the volume of voice. Help me Lord God, to sanctify my speech, that it is always a worthy representation of being your son/daughter.
- ◆ I commit to bridling my tongue, choosing self-discipline as a way of decreasing my self; as James 1:26 exhorts: *“If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, his religion is vain.”*
- ◆ Lord God, I commit to guarding how much I use me-centered words: “I”, “me”, “my” as a reflection of the habit of wanting to speak about myself in ways that may not always serve the highest good of a situation or conversation. I recognize that an

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excessive use of “I” may reflect a self-centeredness within me, that feeds my ego rather than serving your highest good for others.

- ◆ Dear Abba, since *“the tongue is like a rudder”* steering where it wants me and my ego to go, I commit to greater, conscious discipline of my speech; what comes out of my mouth, how and when and to whom. Father God, I ask You to take dominion of my tongue, my speech, and the source and cause of my speech and words; to steer them only where You want them to go, for only Your purposes.
- ◆ James 3:2 provides me a gold standard for the discipline and sanctity of my tongue and speech: *“And if anyone does not offend in speech [never says the wrong things], he is a fully developed character and a perfect man, able to control his whole body and to curb his entire nature.”*
- ◆ Help me Heavenly Father, to perfect my character, with Christ in me. Help me to control my whole body, to curb my entire nature, to sanctify my entire nature, to be fully restored to *“made in Your image.”* In Jesus’ name I pray!

Sanctify My Motives, Desires & Ego

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, I *put off my old self, which belongs to my former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires*, according to Ephesians 4:22.
- ◆ Lord God, help me to crucify my personal passions and desires which are of this earth; as Galatians 5:24 declares: *“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”*
- ◆ Help me Abba, to truly *live by the Spirit*, so that I may *keep in step with the Spirit*, according to Galatians 5:25; so that I *shall not become conceited, provoking and envying others* (Galatians 5:26), traits which are enemies of sanctification.
- ◆ Lord God, I lay my ego and all its contents and machinations at the feet of the Cross, to fulfill Your Word in Romans 12:2 to *not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of my mind, that by testing I may discern **what is the will of God*** (not my own will), and *what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

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Sanctify My Heart

- ◆ Dear Father Abba, sanctify my heart, that anything that I am holding that is not from You, of You, for You and Your purposes and Holy Will, be removed from my heart — grudges, resentments, jealousies, desires, covetousness. I decrease that Christ in me shall increase.
- ◆ Father God, “*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer*”, according to Psalm 19:14.

I Renounce To Decrease

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, since Jesus said in Luke 14:33: “*So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple*”, I therefore renounce all that I have, all that is in me and in my life that does not align with Your purposes for my life. I renounce all that is not from You, but from this world.
- ◆ Lord God, I renounce my ego habits including any inclinations and needs to be right and superior. I renounce the critical spirit, the religious spirit, the prideful spirit. I renounce family iniquities that pull at my character in often subtle ways. I renounce over-indulgence in technology, media, news, entertainment. I renounce sloth, spiritual laziness, materialism, and desiring for more and better things.

The Fruits of Decreasing

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, I choose to decrease and deny myself in order to *abide in Christ Jesus*. I recognize that by abiding in Christ, *YOU Father are glorified, that I may bear much fruit and so prove to be Jesus’ disciple*. Now THAT is a worthy purpose and goal!
- ◆ *May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify me through and through. May my whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ*, according to 1 Thessalonians 5:23.
- ◆ Dear Abba, thank you for helping me to decrease, to deny myself, to renounce my desires, in order to receive the blessings of sanctification — set apart for eternal life with You.

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- ◆ For 2 Timothy 2:21 proclaims: *“Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things [which are dishonorable—disobedient, sinful], he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified [set apart for a special purpose and], useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.”* Now that is surely worth decreasing my self!

Sealing Prayer:

*“I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world,
so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.
I have given them Your Word and the world has hated them,
for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.
My prayer is not that You take them out of the world
but that You protect them from the evil one.
They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.
Sanctify them by the truth; **Your Word is truth.**
As you sent me into the world,
I have sent them into the world.
For them I sanctify myself,
that they too may be truly sanctified.”*

John 17:13-19