

WE MUST DECREASE / CHRIST MUST INCREASE

Daily Meditation – Sunday November 16, 2025

The Bible says, “Therefore there arose a discussion on the part of John’s disciples with a Jew about purification. And they came to John and said to him, ‘Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified, behold, He is baptizing and all are coming to Him.’ John answered and said, ‘A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven. You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, ‘I am not the Christ,’ but, ‘I have been sent ahead of Him.’ He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. So this joy of mine has been made full. He must increase, but I must decrease” (Jn. 3:25-30).¹

This section, of John 3, in my Bible is titled, “John’s Last Testimony.” I like to pay close attention to when John says something because Jesus said, “I say to you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he” (Lk. 7:28).

We must decrease and Jesus must increase. This is profound. Yet, there is work involved in the process. Whether it is through spiritual formation, so we grow, enduring trials, telling others about Jesus, preaching His Word, it all involves doing. The essence of Christianity is change. Change is an action word. Whether it is studying, telling, teaching there is Christian action involved to be doers of the Word. We hear the Word (receiving), and are doers of the Word (giving). Others need what we have received. Now it’s time to give it away to others. We are blessed, to be a blessing, to others. Allow me to define the word “altruistic” for you. Here it is, “Unselfish regard for or devotion to the welfare of others.”²

In 2 Corinthians 11, the Apostle Paul defends his apostleship. He states how he was shipwrecked, beaten times without number, far more imprisonments, dangers in the city and in the wilderness, in hunger and thirst, sleepless nights, and he goes on and on. Then he says, “There is the daily pressure on me of *concern for all the churches.*” I believe an altruistic mindset helped Paul decrease.

¹ All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the *New American Standard Bible*.

² “Altruistic,” *Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*, 10th ed, ed. Fredrick C. Mish, (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Incorporated, 2001), 34.

PRAYER FOR SALVATION – Father God, I repent of all my sins, and I believe You raised Jesus from the dead. I confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord of my life. Jesus, wash me with your holy blood. Holy Spirit fill me so I can be a mighty witness for King Jesus!