

Title: All In All

Grant Hill, Garden Gathering, 6/15/25

I would like to pray before we begin. Lord Jesus, we come in your name to gather under your banner and we magnify that it is love, it is joy, and it is peace. You are long suffering. You are patient and kind. You are self-disciplined. We come under your goodness, your discipline and your love. We exalt the name of Jesus, and we receive Him as the Living Word. You are here, and you speak. I ask that all other words would fall. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

John 3:30 ESV

"He must increase, but I must decrease."

This is John the Baptist speaking, "He must increase, but I must decrease."

If we read starting at verse 29, this is what he's talking about.

John 3:29 ESV

"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, the bridegroom must increase, and I, the bridegroom's friend must decrease. My joy is complete."

He is speaking of the One who came after him. We know Him as Jesus. Jesus was not just a man. He was the God Man. I am wanting to emphasize this passage today. Because you recognize the joy of the friend is complete when he is not the focus. At the sacrifice of the friend, the bridegroom gets the bride. There is this moment where the friend of the bridegroom is alone at the expense of the One next to him. The the fullness of joy comes when he sacrifices his companionship so that his friend gets the one that He loves.

John the Baptist is saying it well. He is saying that there are moments in our lives when it is at our expense, at our sacrifice, Jesus will be fulfilled. For Jesus to be satisfied, and for Jesus's joy to be complete actually satisfies me. Sacrifice brings true fulfillment when you are sacrificing for Jesus. Do you see it in this? The One who has the bride is the bridegroom, not me. I have no companion. I am alone. No one is with me. All that I am doing is going to go for this One. All my ministry is for this One coming after me. "He must increase and I must decrease." I must sacrifice my wants, my ambitions, and my hopes for the Kingdom of God." It's like this. It's "the friend of the bridegroom who stands and hears Him and rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete." "I am satisfied. I am fulfilled when I sacrifice to see Jesus ecstatic and overfilled with joy."

This is actually the walk of a Christian. You are not really fulfilled until you give up something for the King. It's not about what you are getting from the King. It's what are you giving away for Him to have His inheritance in you. What am I giving away for Him to have His joy complete through my actions? What am I giving away that gives Him the glory through my faith? What am I sacrificing to see His face so in love? Do you see it? That fulfills you more than anything, to sacrifice for God and see His glory made manifest. That's what you were created for, to minister to the Lord.

Ephesians chapter four says that you are "all equipped for the work of the ministry." What is that ministry? To serve the Lord, to see His needs are met, and to see His face shine. That the face of God would shine on you and give you peace. What is that face? What does that face

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look like? It's like the friend of the bridegroom who sees his best friend see His bride. That's the joy that we are after. Wow, right?

Sometimes in the walk of a Christian, the fullness of joy and the fullness of purpose comes in the solitary moments. Sometimes in the walk of the narrow way, the fullness of joy and the fullness of purpose only comes when you are in solitary moments. That seems counterintuitive, because if I want purpose, I usually try to connect with people, and brothers and sisters in Christ. When I want a fullness of joy, I have to encounter things with my brothers and sisters. But, often it's inversely, that it is when you are in a place in solitude with Jesus that all of a sudden, fullness of joy and fullness of purpose come into your heart. The moments you realize that you are alone, the moments you realize you are the friend of the bridegroom, those moments that you realize He is here with me. But, I feel like nobody else is walking with me. Those moments can bring you fullness of joy and purpose in your life. That is what I want to talk about.

The Bridegroom is Jesus, and He is the source of all things and in all things. He is the source of all things and in all things. Now, why does this happen? Why does God allow us to feel lack? Why does God allow us to feel solitude? Why does God allow us to feel like we are alone in our narrow walk? We are going to get into it. But, He allows us to feel this so that He can eventually become all things in all of you. That you will not get any source of joy, any source of comfort, any source of peace, or any source of love outside of Him. You think, "Well, that's selfish." Actually, it is not. You were created only to receive joy, peace, comfort and love from Him alone. You were created for Him and Him alone.

In this walk on the Earth, the devil will tempt us with, "sugar," to satisfy us temporarily, as much as we can, to fill the void of what you were created for. God allows us to feel the lack in the sugar crashes. He allows us to feel those drops of, "I need more than just the icing on this cake." I have to be completely filled and satisfied with joy, peace, love, comfort, grace, and mercy. I need to encounter this for real. Sometimes the only way for us to encounter that is when we are just with Him.

We are going to read a lot of scriptures about how He is above all and in all, and through all, and all in all. Say, "All in all. Christ Jesus is all in all. He wants to be in it all, through it all, for it all." You are going to hear a lot of "alls." Say, "I am going to hear a lot of alls."

I Corinthians 15:27-28 ESV

"For God has put all things in subjection under His feet. But when it says, "All things are put in subjection, it is plain that He is excepted who put all things in subjection under Him. When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subjected to Him who put all things in subjection under Him, that God may be all in all."

You say, "that is a weird logic." Yes, it's a logic problem. It's geometry. But, He's basically saying, that in the scripture where it says "He has subjected all things under Christ's feet," He's saying, "Well, you can't put Christ under that, because all things are under Christ. If all things are under Christ, we know that He is God, and if He is God, then we know that all things are under Christ, under God, so that He can become all in all." Why is that? Because, He is man. He was 100% man. All of a sudden you have 100% man as God in the middle of all things, wow. So, God is all in all. That's the main thing. You might want to underline that. That God may be all in all. That is what we want to pray. "I want God to be all in all, that God may be all in all things." Yes.

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First Corinthians 3:23 ESV

“You are Christ’s and Christ is God’s that He might be all in all.”

First Corinthians 11:3 ESV

“But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of every wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.”

What is this? This is the alignment we read about in Ephesians chapter five. It's not about control, it's about submission. Christ submitted Himself, it says in Philippians, under God. That He did not even consider Himself equal to God, even though He was, but He submitted to the headship of the Father. Therefore it has been given to Him the authority to be our bridegroom. So, we are the Bride of Christ, male and female. I am the Bride of Christ as His wife. I am submitted under His headship. Therefore, to show the picture prophetically on the Earth, husbands and wives are, a husband as the head of the house and a wife underneath. It's not about control. It's about are you submitted as Christ is submitted to the Father? Can a husband submit to Christ, and as the bride submits to Christ, can a wife submit to her husband? This is what it looks like.

Why do we do this? We submit so that Christ can be all in all? Because if you have a vertebrae that's out of whack, the nervous system doesn't quite work right. We are the body joined and knit together, each joint supplying what it needs. So, if the body is out of whack in the alignment of its spine, the vertebrae locks up. There is no movement in the body of Christ. If you are in alignment, it allows Christ to be all in all. If you submit to understanding this, it's Christ in us all in all, the hope of glory in the body of Christ.

Ephesians 1:22-23 ESV

“And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who what fills all in all.”

The whole chapter of Ephesians is good. We've been in it a lot, but we're going to focus on these two verses at the very end of chapter one. So, “He must increase and I must decrease that He would be all in all.” Jesus Himself prayed this, or He spoke this. “Without the Father, I can do nothing.” Christ can do nothing without the Father, because He's emptying Himself and constantly submitting to the Holy Spirit. What hope do you and I have unless Christ be all in all? “He must increase, I must decrease.” You hear it?

Colossians 1:17-20 ESV

“He is before all things, and in Him, all things exist or hold together. 18) And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the first born from the dead, that in everything He might have the preeminence, that in everything He might be preeminent.” What is preeminent? The top, God, right?

Reese Howells said that when Holy Spirit was teaching him about the baptism of Holy Spirit empowerment, the Holy Spirit took a hold of him and said, “There can be nothing of you in your heart. There can be nothing of your ambition in your heart. If I'm going to come in, I'm going to come in as God.” “He must increase. I must decrease.” If you are going to let God in, you better let Him come in as God, as Lord, and as Master. Nothing of you can get in His way anymore. Nothing of me can get in the way, “He must increase. I must decrease.”

How do you find this inversion? How do you find this equation? It's the bridegroom's friend who says, “At the expense of me, God. This is not about me. This is about you and your joy fulfilled, God.”

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When the devil took Rodney Howard Brown's daughter away, he said, "This isn't about me, devil, but you will pay. Because I'm going to go after a billion souls and save them. You took my daughter. I'm going to go save a billion souls." That seems impossible. Well, God is with those who believe in impossible things. He told Abraham and Sarah, "With God, nothing is impossible." She was weaning a baby at 90 years old. What? Yes, that's in the word. His people are still here to this day as descendants of Isaac.

First Corinthians 8:6 ESV

"Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist."

That's what I'm trying to tell you. There is nothing in this world that you were created for. There is nothing in this world that you exist for, nothing. It says, "Yet, for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist." Did it say that? Yes, in First Corinthians, chapter eight, verse six. Why does this matter? Because in a day and age where you can say Jesus Christ is Lord, but He's not God, this verse settles it. No, He's the same as God, because all things existed through Him, and all of us exist for Him. If He is in equal terms with God, then He must be God. "The Word was God, and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." Yes, it's important.

Romans 11:36 ESV

"For from Him and through Him, and to Him, are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen."

Galatians 6:6 ESV

"Let the one who has taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches." I want you to hear this. It's not off track. Just stay with me. "Let the one who has taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches." This is the bridegroom's friend. First off, when the Holy Spirit teaches you something, share it freely. You have been given freely. Give and share it in your relationship with God. This is that art of reflecting. That in all things, I am rejoicing. In all things, I am giving thanks. In all things, I am honoring and recognizing, who is teaching me through this. That when I see a sign, or I see a wonder or I see a testimony, I am sharing it with the one who gives it, the Holy Spirit, the Lord God Himself.

Then it's also honoring, and it's calling us to be connected to leaders who teach you the word. To share all good things with those who are teaching you the word. You have to be engaged, you have to eat, then you have to chew, then you have to swallow, and you have to see the growth in your life. God causes the growth. "One sows, another waters, but God causes the growth." How do you cause the growth? By testifying, because the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy, it says in Revelation. So, if it's the spirit of prophecy, that means that it's going to come forth again. If I share all good things that God is teaching me in the word, He becomes all in all. The teacher of our faith. Wow, right? That just popped out to me. That's one of those verses you skip. "Let the one who has taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches." There is a responsibility. There is an activation here. There is an encouragement here. There is an engagement here.

You say, "Grant, you started this off by talking about how we are supposed to be isolated." No, I did not say "isolated." I said that sometimes God makes you feel "solitude." I need to show a difference, because God does not call us to isolation, but He does make our spirit man feel "abased." In Philippians, Paul says, "I know how to abound and I know how to be abased." What does abased mean? Abased means where you can feel like, "I'm on a narrow path and there's only one way traffic. It's just me. Nobody can be beside me right now." Yet there might be someone in front, there might be somebody behind, but it is a narrow way. I am on a narrow path." Sometimes it feels like you are the only one on that path, though you might be linked.

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He said, "It is a narrow road." But He said, "You would not be alone." How did God make sure we were not alone? He said, "I don't have to be beside you. I don't have to be to your right or to your left or behind or in front. I can be in you, and I'm going to make a way for it." Then I have the blood of Jesus to come in that nothing would pass over. "God with us, Emmanuel."

When you are on that narrow road or on that path and you feel alone, saying, "I am the only one believing for this, yet I'm in the family of God." He's not saying be "isolated." He's saying, "feel it." He's saying, "Feel it and find your comfort, find your faith, find your zeal, find your joy, find your love with who is with you, Me. That I would be your all in all things. That I would become your everything in everything. That I would become all your needs, in every need." Wow, you hear it? This is it. Through Him is the narrow way or the narrow path.

John 14:6 ESV

Jesus said to Him, "I am the Way. I am the Truth. I am the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

He's a narrow gate. He's a narrow door.

Matthew 7:13-14 ESV

"Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction." So, if it's an easy way, if it's an easy path, if there are multiple ways to satisfy the soul, it will fall short eventually. God will prune away those things of our soul that we think we needed. But, He says, "No, that's not all of me. You didn't need all of that from them, or that from that person. You needed me." He is good, and He's gracious. He doesn't cut off all those things right away. But as you mature, He plucks, He prunes, and He cuts the places of your soul that you thought you needed to be satisfied, or that your joy would be complete in. He says, "Your joy is only complete when I am all in all." He is gracious to deliver us from there. "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few." Through Him and in Him is a narrow path. It's a narrow trail or a narrow footpath.

I have been on many of these footpaths. You can go as a group. I have gone as a group. Some of you have followed me in a group. But, as we have taken those paths and we have gone up cliffs and mountains and caves, each one of you had to determine in your own heart to keep going. Nobody takes the path for you. You choose to walk it your own way. Does this make sense? You might be with the group, but you still have to march. You still have to take those steps, and that has to come from within. You have to know Who's within you. "The zeal of the Lord is your strength." The burning fires and the the zeal that it takes to go is that inner struggle, that inner walk, that inner wrestling that you must have with God. It's like Jacob, when he was at his lowest point, in the night. He sent everybody away, and he was alone scripture says in Genesis. "Jacob was alone." He was not isolated. Jacob was alone. In that moment that he felt alone, One came and wrestled with him all night long. After that, he walked with a limp, but he walked with purpose. His name changed from "hustler and cheater," to Prince of the God of Israel." This is what it looks like. What is going to give you that step? What's going to give you that zeal? What's going to give it, is when you sacrifice and say, "You must increase, I must decrease," to go. Because, "You are all in all. I can do nothing without you. You show me the purpose driven life."

Ephesians 4:10-15 ESV

"He who descended is the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things."

"He who descended," that's Jesus when He descended into hell, "He's the One who also ascended far above the heavens that He might fill all things," even the depths of death. He

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went there. "Even in the depths of Sheol," it says in the Psalms, "you will find me there. Even the darkness is light to you."

"He who descended is also the One who ascended far above the heavens that He might fill all things. 11) And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds or the pastors, and teachers, 12) to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13) until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature manhood through the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Let's skip to verse 15. "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head into Christ."

All right, let's go back to verse 11) "Jesus gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, some to be pastors and some to be teachers." In every single one of those offices, you can feel very alone. The apostle, feels like, "the vision is *what* nobody wants to lay hold of." The prophet has to "tell the bad news that nobody wants to hear." The evangelist, "can't get anybody to go out with them." The pastor thinks, "that nobody sees how broken the sheep are, and they have to take care of them all by themselves." The teacher says, "nobody wants to study the word." It all feels very alone.

Being a leader in the House of God means you will walk a hard, narrow way. Those that are the saints, who are babes coming up, think it's all about them crying, "Mama," right? I can hear it now. When we are babes in the flesh, all we think of is, "life revolves around me, my needs, my sleep, my wants, what I want to do," until you grow up and you realize, "it's not about me, it's about my wife, and then it's about your kids." Yeah, "it was never about you." That's the way it looks in the body of Christ, when you are a babe. That's how it is. But, God raises up fathers and mothers. It says in the book of Timothy, "raise the children to grow up." It's not just about you, son. It's about the Bridegroom King. Your joy is not complete until you see His face ecstatic with the Bride. It's about you saying, "He must increase and I must decrease." But, it can feel like a lonely road.

When you are called to these offices as a pastor, you hear the whining, you hear the complaining, you hear the hurting and the broken. Your heart is to see them, but it can feel alone when it's like, "Does anybody else see the need?" It can feel alone when the evangelist goes out and is thinking, "Where's everybody out here? Why do you not want to go?" But that's the road, that's the call. There are those moments that Jesus says, "Let Me be your all in all, because I am more than enough to go out there. I am more than enough to heal the sheep in front of you. I am more than enough Jeremiah. When you speak hard words as Prophet, they won't dismay you. I am the Apostle that has the vision that nobody wanted, and they rejected me before they rejected you. I'm the Teacher who would love to get in the word with you and go, "deep as deep calls unto deep," with you, when no one else wants to eat. This is that lonely road.

This is what it feels like. In Corinthians, it says that there are "helps and administrations and gifts of healings and a variety of tongues, after apostles and prophets and teachers. Those that help say, "Did anybody see that mess right there? Did anybody notice the lights were still on? Is anybody going to jump up and get that? It feels like that. It feels like that. Who didn't flush the toilet? People with the gift of helps look at those things. It feels like that. Why does it feel like that? Because, the devil wants to divide and to speak discord and strife and offense. Jesus said, "It's a lonely road, but I am going to be all in all." The unity of the faith is not the unity of the brethren, where we all just get along and we figure it out. The unity of the faith is where you have found your all sufficient source is Jesus, and His loving kindness and His forgiveness. His sacrifice teaches you how to sacrifice and forgive and to love. Every joint is actually knit together by the love of Jesus.

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When you encounter the love of Jesus, it actually knits you to the Body of Christ. You cannot connect yourself to the body of Christ through soulish ways. That soulish bond will be cut off by God. That soulish way will fall short. You were created for more. You were created to know your brother and know your sister through Christ, through Him. That bond is built through Him. That bond is forged through Him. That's the knitting. How is every stone put together? Christ is the cement. Christ, He is all in all.

When we go to Him, and we are in that narrow way, we are on that path, we encounter Him. All of a sudden, your heart expands and it touches the one in front of you. You didn't have to speed up to catch the one in front of you, or slow down so that they would catch you. Your heart expanded, and the love of God, boom, connects you to the love of the one behind. This is how the Body grows. This is what it looks like. He said it would be a narrow road. Sometimes it feels like you are in solitude. Sometimes it feels like you are alone, but you are not to be isolated.

You actually need the family of God to help you grow. You actually need the cells to multiply themselves. How do they multiply themselves? When they focus so much on Christ, and they are so burning with Christ, He just pops them out. They're so in love with God that they multiply. They're so full of life. Ultimately, that's what the cells in your body do. Dead cells don't multiply. Cells full of life and water and vigor and and sustenance, they multiply. Moments of loneliness or solitude stress the soul to make God your all sufficiency. It's why we fast, because you are forcing your flesh to be abased so that your spirit may abound. God allows us to feel moments of loneliness or solitude, to stress our soul, in order that we might make God our all sufficiency. That God may become our all in all. He is the glue of the unity of the Body of Christ. That the love of God, the joy of God, the fulfillment in Christ and through Christ in Christ, would become all in all things now.

All of this we see in Ezekiel. That's the reason why eventually Israel will feel alone. We read about it in the book of Revelation. There were no nations that come to Israel's side. In Ezekiel, God very specifically says that "I will cause all nations to come against Israel, so that My name would be glorified, so that I and My Name would be exalted." When we are walking out what we are walking out now in world history, the point of it will eventually be that Israel will find herself alone. It breaks my heart to think that my country might be part of that, but that's what the word is saying. But, the point of Israel feeling alone is that He would be their all in all. That no man, no god, no force, would have the glory of her salvation. Only God and only Christ, who is in all things. The King who subjects all wickedness under Him. That's the way the map is going. So, do not fret and do not worry when we see Israel becoming what it's supposed to be in the Bible. Eventually, we will see that she will be all alone. It breaks my heart, but God says it must be. "It must be that there is no other crutch, there is no other voice, there is no other way that they can cry out until they cry out to Me, and that they cry out to Me." Yes, amen.

Let's receive this word, stand and pray. If you need prayer, or if you need to know the Way, the Truth and the Life, we are here to pray with you. God bless you.

"Lord Jesus, we ask for revelation on this word that "you must increase and I must decrease." My joy is not complete until I see the joy on your face when the Bride of Christ is right before you." We want that mission. We want that call. We know that we were created to exist for you, and you are all sufficiency. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."