

John 3:30

He must increase, but I must decrease.

My brother-in-law is into vinyl albums, so much so that he looks for the best electronic equipment to make those albums sound the best. There are also those who are audio snobs, thinking that vinyl albums sound so much better than a CD or streaming audio. Now I am not going to get into which sounds better, because for me, yes, I like listening to music on headphones verses the car speakers or a single speaker sitting in my office or room in the home. I even have a sound bar for my TV that sounds so much better than the TV speakers, and makes it sound like you are at the theater when you turn it up loud enough.

But sometimes we can be so into the quality of the sound, that we are ignore the contexts of the words of the song or the message being played. If I listen to a pastor teach through headphones verses a single speaker, the message is the same, sure it may not sound as good, but then, I am not listening to the pastor because I like the sound of his voice, but rather because I want to hear God's voice through the message.

We do that with the word of God being taught, we look for the best, well known pastors or teachers to listen to because we think they sound better or are more spiritual because they are so famous or popular. I am a snob that way myself sometimes and I love listening to pastor Chuck Smith's teachings almost everyday, but I am also open to hear other pastors teach as well, as long as they are Christian.

But have you ever had someone recommend a book and you ask who wrote it? When they tell you, maybe you never heard of that person, yet you read the book anyway, and God spoke to you through that book? Or have you even listened to a pastor you never heard before, because someone sent you a link to a message they heard, and even though you didn't know that pastor, you knew the person who recommended it, so you listened and God spoke to you through what we would call an unknown or unfamous pastor/teacher.

It would be like, saying, it is a hot day, and I have been out in the sun all day, therefore, I am thirsty. So, as soon as I get home, my wife or kids or a friend brings me a glass of water in a plastic cup, which was stained, cracked and chipped. Should I therefore not drink out of it, and tell them that they need to get me my glass that I love to drink out of, or a nice crystal glass that is chilled to an ice-cold temperature, and has a squeeze of lemon in it? No, I drink the water because I am thirsty, regardless of the vessel (cup or glass).

Yet when we are spiritually thirsty, do we always look to that same spiritual glass to drink from, the same pastor over and over, never wanting to listen to what God has to say through anyone else.

Jesus says,

† **John 7:37** *On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink."*

Yet we get so much into our routine that we ignore the goodness of the pure word of God, and exchange it for the dirty word coming out of movies, video games, TV, bad music, etc. and we do so sometimes because we are looking for those explosive moments from God from the same pastor, and when the Lord does not give that to us, we look to the world to get our explosion fix. Today, God may not want to give us that explosion that we are looking for, but rather a subtle whisper that we need, through an unknown (in our eyes) person that God is using.

† **1 Kings 19:11-12** *Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.*

† **2 Corinthians 10:7** *Do you look at things according to the outward appearance? If anyone is convinced in himself that he is Christ's, let him again consider this in himself, that just as he is Christ's, even so we are Christ's.*