

KEY #1: The security of God's SOVEREIGNTY

To this John replied, 'A person can receive only what is given them from heaven.' (3:27)

KEY #2: The acceptance of his HUMANITY

I said, 'I am not the Messiah, but I am sent ahead of Him' (3:28)

KEY #3: The joy of MINISTRY

'The groom is the person to whom the bride belongs. The best man, who stands and listens to him, is **overjoyed** when the groom speaks. **This is the joy that I feel.**' (3:29, GWT)

KEY #4: The urgency of HUMILITY

'He must increase in importance, while I must decrease in importance.' (3:30, GWT)

HOW TO LIVE A GREAT LIFE:

- Ask God for WISDOM to know who you are.
- Ask God for the HUMILITY to know who you are not.
- Make a lifelong COMMITMENT to DISCOVERING who Jesus is.

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HOW TO HAVE A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Admit...that I am a sinner and need God's forgiveness Rom. 3:23

Repent...Turn away from my sins and turn to God. Rom. 3:22; Acts 3:19

Believe...that Jesus died on the cross for me and showed He was God by coming back to life again. 1 Cor. 15:2-4, Rom. 10:9, Col. 2:14

Receive...Jesus into my life as my new Boss. John 1:12; Rom. 12:2

- If you're willing to take these steps, sincerely pray this prayer in your heart:

"Dear God, I know You love me. I believe You sent Your Son, Jesus, to die for my sins and that He rose from the dead. I'm sorry I've lived for myself and I ask for Your forgiveness for all my sins. I want You to be the Boss of my life and live the way You want me to. Amen."



JOHN 1:6-7, 19-34; 3:22-30

LUKE 7:28 [Jesus:] I tell you, among those born of women there is **no one greater than John**; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

Why John the Baptist Was a Great Man

1. John knew WHO HE WAS

There was a man **sent from God**, whose name was John. He came as **a witness**, to **testify concerning that light**, so that **through him all men might believe.** (1:6-7)

1) A man SENT FROM GOD

2) A WITNESS TO the Light

3) A HERALD TO PREPARE the way for the coming of a king

He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord," as the prophet Isaiah said.' (1:23, ESV)

4) A BAPTIZER

'I baptize with water,' John replied... (1:26a)

- John's baptism was a baptism of REPENTANCE and cleansing, but not of FILLING. Also, it was a baptism of water, not of THE SPIRIT.

5 Baptisms Throughout History

Jewish "Baptism": I want to become A JEW

John's Baptism: I want to REPENT of my SINS

Apostles Baptism: I want to REPENT of my SINS

Believers Baptism: I have been SAVED BY GRACE

Sacramental Baptism: A work that EARNS ME GRACE

2. John knew WHO HE WASN'T (1:19-21)

1) Not THE MESSIAH

2) Not ELIJAH (cf. Mal. 4:5; Matt. 17:12-13; Luke 1:17)

3) Not THE PROPHET

- A vital life question for us all: WHO ARE YOU?
Finally they said, 'Who are you?...' (1:22a)

3. John knew WHO JESUS WAS

- To be great, you must understand who Jesus really is. The more you understand Him, the greater you can become.

1) He knew His PRESENCE

John answered, 'I baptize with water, but there is one here with you that you don't know about.' (1:26, NCV)

2) He understood His GREATNESS

He is the One who comes after me. I am not good enough to untie the strings of his sandals. (1:27, NCV)

3) He grasped His PURPOSE

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!' (1:29)

4) He perceived His NATURE

This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because He was before me.' (1:30)

5) He discerned His CALLING

Then John gave this testimony: 'I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him.' (1:32)

6) He recognized His POWER

And I myself did not know Him, but the One who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The Man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' (1:33)

7) He proclaimed His GODHOOD

And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God. (1:34, ESV)

4. The great TEST of John's greatness: HUMILITY

After this, Jesus and His disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where He spent some time with them, and baptized. Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were coming and being baptized... They came to John and said to him, 'Rabbi, that Man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the One you testified about—look, He is baptizing, and everyone is going to Him.' John 3:22-24, 26

- Humility is tested when the FOCUS SHIFTS

FROM YOU to someone else.

- John gives 4 specific keys needed to pass this test: