

“All That”  
Pastor Wally Contreras  
May 1, 2022

“These are those who were listed, whom Moses and Aaron listed with the help of the chiefs of Israel, twelve men, each representing his fathers’ house. So all those listed of the people of Israel, by their fathers’ houses, from twenty years old and upward, every man able to go to war in Israel—all those listed were 603,550. But the Levites were not listed along with them by their ancestral tribe. For the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, Only the tribe of Levi you shall not list, and you shall not take a census of them among the people of Israel. But appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of the testimony, and over all its furnishings, and over all that belongs to it. They are to carry the tabernacle and all its furnishings, and they shall take care of it and shall camp around the tabernacle. When the tabernacle is to set out, the Levites shall take it down, and when the tabernacle is to be pitched, the Levites shall set it up. And if any outsider comes near, he shall be put to death. The people of Israel shall pitch their tents by their companies, each man in his own camp and each man by his own standard. But the Levites shall camp around the tabernacle of the testimony, so that there may be no wrath on the congregation of the people of Israel. And the Levites shall keep guard over the tabernacle of the testimony. Thus did the people of Israel; they did according to all that the LORD commanded Moses.” (Numbers 1:44-54)

\* \* \* \* \*

Pastor Wally said that I should trust **all that** God is doing. Proverbs 3:5 reminds me that I am to “[t]rust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.” Jon Bloom a staff writer with DesiringGod.org once pointed out “What we’re told not to lean on is our “own understanding,” meaning conclusions based primarily on our own perceptions. Because our own understanding simply will not bear the full weight of reality. It was never intended to...What this means is that it is not the one who trusts in the Lord that is irrational, but the one who leans on his or her own understanding. It is insane to trust such pitifully limited understanding when one can trust the unlimited understanding of God.” How often do I reach “conclusions based primarily on [my] own perceptions” and why?

R.C. Sproul further explained that “[t]he sense is that to trust in the Lord is to walk with the Lord, and this has a direct bearing on wisdom, for if one becomes wise by walking with the wise (13:20), the only way to attain true and lasting wisdom is to walk with the One who is wisdom Himself. God blesses those who walk with Him (1 John 1:5–10), and one of the ways He does this is by granting them wisdom (1 Kings 3:1–15; Prov. 2:6; 28:5). Do I have any “trust” issues with God when it comes to things like my finances, my career, my children? Explain.

Pastor Wally said that it was God who was calling and bringing order to the tribes of Israel and it is God who is calling, ordering and moving His church today. Do I have “trust issues” when it comes to the direction of this church? If so, why so? If not, why not?

What are some of the “all thats” that God is doing in my life?

It isn't like God didn't know exactly how many men there were who were 20 years old and older who were “able to go to war”, so why do I think God had Moses take a census and gave such specific instructions of how and who was to conduct the census?

How do I respond to the realization that God, who originally remained outside of the camp, made a way for Him to be able to move inside the camp so He could be closer to His chosen people while establishing a “buffer zone” of Levites between them and Him?

How do I respond to the realization that God, who moved inside the camp to be closer to His chosen people and yet maintained barriers around the tabernacle and inside the tabernacle to protect His people from His wrath eventually removed all of those barriers (“And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.” Luke 23:45b) through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross?

Pastor Wally said that I need to consider **all that** God has written to me. Jesus said in Matthew 4:4 that “...It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by **every** word that comes from the mouth of God.’ (Emphasis added) and He went on to say in Matthew 5:18-19 that: “For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” Fifteen times in the Book of Deuteronomy, God's chosen were cautioned “to be careful” to do all that God has commanded. The message is loud and clear: be careful to

obey **every and all** commands of God. Some would consider these many statements as mindless repetition. Why this “overkill”?

In Deuteronomy 32:46-47, Moses’ final words to God’s people was: “Take to heart all the words by which I am warning you today, that you may command them to your children, that they may be careful to do all the words of this law. For it is no empty word for you, but your very life, and by this word you shall live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess. (Emphasis added)” Moses was saying, “Don't neglect any of it. Obey it. Do it all.” Have I tried at times to take “short cuts” with God? If God wants me to go from point A to point B to point C to arrive at point D, do I just want to go from point A directly to point D? Do I think that’s good enough, that I’ve obeyed God because I got from point A to point D?

Pastor Wally said that “strange fire” is offering God that which He hasn’t called for...how careful am I to pay attention to the details of God’s instructions to me?

Do I spend as much time reading about God’s warnings as I do about God’s blessings and grace?

Do I pay attention to God’s warnings because I have to or because I want to? Explain.

When I stand before God, will I be like Vinny Gambini in the movie, “My Cousin Vinny” who, when standing before Judge Chamberlain Harlan for not wearing the “proper attire” in his courtroom and just before being held in contempt of court, asked Judge Harlan, “You were serious about that?”

God chose to move closer to His people. What are some things that I can do or stop doing in order to choose and become closer to Him? Explain.