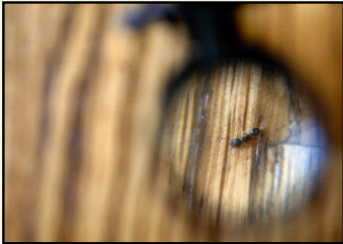


Biblical Counseling Center publishes eCounselor's Weekly guide, to encourage counselors and all believers in discipleship and daily growth.

Magnify the Lord by Sherry Allchin M.A.

When Ron and I were getting married 40 years ago, we chose as our verse Ps 34:3, "O Magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt His name together." That has been an encouraging verse for us over the years and we have tried to live by that verse as we exalted God's name and served Him together in ministry. But for many years I misunderstood the meaning of "to magnify." Now, I desire to live out that verse more than ever!



To magnify doesn't change the object

I can remember questioning how we could magnify God, or in my mind make Him bigger than He was already! I was thinking I had to do something that would change or help God in some way. I had to make Him look bigger like the magnifying glass made the ant look bigger. But I didn't know how.

Then one day it dawned on me, the ant didn't change at all, just the way I viewed him did. God wasn't asking me to do something to change Him, he was asking me to view HIM in a different way, to see Him through a different lenses. I needed to see Him more clearly, as He really is, not as my sinful nature wants to imagine Him, not as my magic genie to meet all my needs, nor as my culture paints Him.

To magnify changes the observer

God was intent on changing ME, not the other way around! That day as I looked at the ant through a magnifying glass, I finally understood that verse. It didn't change the ant. It just changed my perspective of the ant! I saw things about her I could not have seen without magnification. I gained a new respect for one of God's marvelous little creatures!

When I view God through His Word, my thoughts about God change and my respect for Him grows as I better understand His character and His ways. His Word magnifies Him to me in ways that change ME! I want to be more like Him and to learn His ways.

To magnify the Lord together

God's design is for us to exalt Him together! He made us in pairs, and placed us in families and churches. Community is a big part of how we relate to God. Marriages are to reflect His great love for each other through mutual respect and obedience in the marriage roles (Eph 5). Families are God's model for training the next generation to love and serve the Lord (Dt 6). Churches are to be God's healing stations as we help one another to grow in Christlikeness (Gal 6). We are to magnify the Lord together by pointing others to Him and to His greatness, by declaring His goodness and His delight in helping us as we live out the reality of our status as His dear children - joint heirs in Christ Jesus. This exalts His name and spreads His fame.

1. *How am I viewing the Lord at this moment? (Angry at Him? Afraid of Him? Aloof from Him?)*
2. *What lens am I using to view Him? (The Word, the culture, my own imagination)*
3. *How am I painting Him to others in my life?*
4. *Read the Psalms to get a Biblical view of His Character.*
5. *Read the Gospels to see His character lived out in Jesus Christ.*

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