

Lifelines

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Topic: Magnifying God

A Living Magnifying Glass

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Anyone who wears eyeglasses or contacts understands the difference they bring to your vision. The glasses magnify the thing you are looking at, making it clearer and seemingly nearer. Having the ability to enlarge a picture, or texts or documents received via your computer or phone, makes all the difference in the world to the person trying to see it

In Psalm 34:3 the Psalmist prays: "O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together." I have loved this verse since I first discovered it a conference for college students in the 1970's. Let's look closer at what the verse is really all about. At first glance we assume that this verse is a prayer for God to magnify the Lord "to me." We would like to see God better, understand Him up-close. This is a great goal, for each of us to see God bigger than life in our daily experience. However, that is not the prime meaning of this verse.

This verse says that the Psalmist prays: "O magnify the Lord *with me... i.e. by means of me.*" In this regard it is not a request for God to be enlarged and in focus to me. The verse is a prayer for God to use the Psalmist, his life and activities, to be a magnifying glass that helps other people more clearly see the Living God through our lives. Our task is to reveal the Invisible God, through our visible life, our values, our attitudes and our daily actions. We are to allow God to use our entire life to make God more visible, tangible, clearer, and enlarged in the eyes of the people we encounter.

This verse involves each of us who personally know God, to find ways to magnify His reality and awesomeness, as He is manifested through Jesus, to everyone we contact throughout each day. How do we do that? Well, first we need to personally know God. You can't magnify God, if you don't even know Him. The better you know and value what you are trying to recommend to others, or more accurately Who you are recommending to others, the clearer and more effectively you can communicate with others.

So, how do we magnify God, and exalt His name together (vs. 3)? First, you need to show Jesus at work in your own life. Help people see what Jesus is like as you relate to others. If you have ever shopped at Sam's Club or Costco, you have been given little samples of various food products. Why does a store do this? Because once you taste a product you are more likely to buy it. So as Christians, we are to go through each day, giving people free samples of the flavorful life which God gives to those who believe.

In the same way, as a Christian, your life and my life are small samples of God at work in a human life. If we convey truth and God's love and wisdom well, people will desire to partake in the full size version, thereby seek to know such an amazing God.

Secondly, we need to be alert to opportunities to help people see God in the daily events of life. For example, as a college student, when one of my professors said something that was an illustration of something Jesus taught, I would chime in: "Fantastic! This is great! Then I would add, "Jesus taught the very same thing, in this encounter or in that teaching." It would cause people to become curious about Jesus, and what the Bible teaches.

Also during college, I worked with a person who didn't want to hear about "God." We would go out into the desert with a water truck to water plants we were researching. One day geese flew over in formation, then changed the leader. I said: "Isn't that amazing how God made geese know how to rotate who was at the point of the spear in their flying wedge? One flies in front, breaking through the air current, then when the leader gets tired, it goes to the back and another flies to the front." Pointing out God in the happenings of life, magnifies Him, bringing Him into peoples' thoughts and getting them to see Him everywhere.

Tomorrow morning, why don't you give yourself to God, and ask Him to reveal Himself to you in the activities of the day? And when He gives you an insight of His activity in something happening, be willing to reveal to others that insight of "God at work," so they will turn their eyes and thoughts towards God.

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