



Magnify, Part 2: Magnify the Lord, Not the Problem

Pastor Mark Thomas | 6-9-2024

Key Scriptures:

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NKJV)

“...in everything **give thanks**; for **this is the will of God** in Christ Jesus for you.”

Thanksgiving vs. Complaining

Whatever we magnify, we give place to in our lives. We can magnify the Lord with gratitude and praise giving place to His goodness or we can magnify problems and hardships with complaining giving place to defeat. Cultivating a lifestyle of thanksgiving increases our capacity to receive from the Lord. When we choose to steer our thoughts and words towards praise and thanksgiving in all circumstances, we can expect to see God’s goodness in our lives.

Magnifying the Lord

- 1. Magnifying the Lord increases our capacity to receive.**
 - a. Just as a farmer cultivates soil, we can cultivate our hearts (Jeremiah 4:3).
 - i. Soil needs to be broken up and treated to receive seed and water.
 - ii. Our hearts are cultivated through praise and thanksgiving.
 - b. Our ability to receive is not based on God’s power or ability.
 - i. Our ability to receive is based upon our faith in God.
 - ii. Our faith grows as we magnify the Lord above all else in our lives.
 - iii. Our faith activates God’s ability and power.
 - c. God is looking to show Himself strong to people of faith (2 Chronicles 16:9).
- 2. Whatever we magnify we give place to in our lives.**
 - a. The children of Israel magnified the enemy and were afraid (Numbers 13:31-33).
 - i. They did not enter the land of promise because of their unbelief.
 - ii. They compared the giants to themselves and not to God’s greatness.
 - b. We do not want to magnify: feelings, shortcomings, ourselves compared to others, fear, worry, old hurts, sickness.
 - c. Abraham magnified God over his problems and overcame (Romans 4:18-21).
 - i. He did not consider the hardships or impossibilities.
 - ii. He became strong in faith when he gave glory to God.
 - iii. He magnified God and received God’s results.
- 3. Ways to magnify the Lord.**
 - a. We can magnify the Lord with others (Psalm 34:1-3).
 - b. We can magnify the Lord with songs (Psalm 69:30).
 - c. We can magnify the Lord with thanksgiving (1 Corinthians 15:57).
 - d. We cannot wait until we feel like magnifying the Lord.
 - i. A missionary with smallpox chose to praise the Lord and was healed.
 - ii. James says, to count it all joy in trials and tests (James 1:2-4).
 - iii. Give thanks no matter the circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Supportive Scriptures

- **1 Corinthians 15:57** (We have victory through Jesus.)
- **Psalms 34:1-3** (Bless the Lord at all times, magnify the Lord together.)
- **2 Chronicles 16:9** (God's eyes are searching to strengthen the righteous.)
- **2 Corinthians 2:14** (God always causes us to triumph.)
- **1 Thessalonians 5:18** (In everything give thanks.)
- **Luke 17:12-19** (The ten lepers.)
- **Romans 4:18-20** (Abraham became strong in faith, and gave glory to God.)
- **Psalms 69:30** (Praise the Lord with singing.)
- **Numbers 13:31-33** (The Israelites focused on the giants, not the greatness of God.)
- **Jeremiah 4:3** (Break up the hard ground of your hearts.)