



MAGNIFY GOD

1. To exalt or magnify God is to tell others how great He is.

The verb *megaluno* means to increase the size of something (number, amount, length, height, weight, volume, influence, fame, importance): number of sins (Lam. 4:6), amount of wealth and wisdom (2 Chron. 9:22), length of hair (Dan. 4:30) or tassels (Matt. 23:5), height of a tree (Dan. 4:8, 17) or a child (1 Sam. 2:21; 3:19), heaviness of a weight (Amos 8:5), loudness of lamentation (Zech. 12:11), more power and authority (1 Kings 1:37, 47; Dan. 2:48), bigger name or reputation (Gen. 12:2); inflated opinion of oneself (Dan. 8:25).

2. Exaltation begins in the soul (Luke 1:46) and is expressed through the mouth (Acts 10:46) and the body (Phil. 1:20)

3. The objects of exaltation are Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:20) and God (Luke 1:46; Acts 10:46). People magnified the apostles because they were doing miracles (Acts 5:12–13; cf. 2 Cor. 10:15).

4. Praise (*ainesis*) magnifies God (Psalm 69[68]:30). God would rather be magnified with praise than be given sacrifices (Psalm 69[68]:31). *thusian aineseos* is "a sacrifice of praise" in Hebrews 13:15.

5. Why exalt God?

- a. because He is no respecter of persons: He blesses the humble and the great (Luke 1:48a).
- b. because He did something great for you (Luke 1:49; cf. 2 Sam. 7:21–22 LXX).
- c. because He made you famous—magnified your name (Luke 1:48b).
- d. because He showed a lot of mercy to you—the birth of a baby removes the disgrace of barrenness (Luke 1:58; cf. 1:25).
- e. because He delivered you from your enemies (Psa. 34[33]:3; 40[39]:16; 69[68]:30; 70[69]:4) or delivered a friend of yours from his enemies (Psa. 35[34]:27).
- f. because He keeps His word (2 Sam. 7:25–26 LXX = 1 Chron. 17:23–24 LXX).

6. The Gentiles in the house of Cornelius exalted God after receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit and the gift of speaking in tongues (Acts 10:46).

7. The name of Jesus was magnified because he had authority over demons (Acts 19:17; comp. 19:13, 15).