

## JESUS IS GREATER

Psalm 34:1-3 – “I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make its boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear it and be glad. O **magnify the Lord** with me, let us exalt his name together.”

- ✓ When we read the phrase, “Magnify the Lord”, as Christians, we automatically think of “praise”. (That’s certainly *part* of what David meant.) But the word “magnify” in this verse means exactly what it would mean in other settings.
- ✓ If I told you that I bought a new “magnifying glass”, would you think I was talking about praise? No. You’d think I wanted to “magnify” an object, or “make it look bigger”. That’s what the word “magnify” means in this verse! David is encouraging us to “make the Lord look bigger”.
- ✓ You see, as Christians, most of us have a perception problem. When we face a problem, we tend to see a “great big problem” and ... (though we’d never say it out loud) ... “a tiny little God”. If you go to your doctor and he says the word “cancer”, in your mind, that cancer is a MOUNTAIN of a problem. And, in that moment, it might seem that God isn’t going to be enough to overcome it. That’s when you need to take your picture of God and “magnify” it.
- ✓ Now, it’s not that the Lord isn’t big enough. (He’s *plenty* big!) It’s your *perception* of Him that’s lacking. So, you need to take the Word of God, and stretch your picture of God! “Magnify” the Lord until He begins to look bigger than the problem.

### A More Accurate Picture of God:

Eph. 1:16-20 – “I pray for you constantly, asking God to give you wisdom to **see clearly** and **really understand who Christ is** and all that he has done for you. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light, **SO YOU CAN SEE ...**” (See what?)

*“I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light, so that you can see **the overwhelming greatness of God’s power** that is working among us believers. **It is as great as** the working of his mighty strength, which God worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead.”* (TLB, CEB, EHV)

- ✓ According to this passage, the power that’s available to is “is (just) as great” as the power it took to raise Jesus from the dead! That same great power is available to meet our needs.

### Greek Words for “Power”:

- ✓ There are five Greek words for “power”. Four of them appear in this verse.
  - 1.) Dunamis – “stored up” power. (Dynamite is “potential” power.)
  - 2.) Energia – “released” power. (If you light the stick of dynamite ...)
  - 3.) Kratos – “ruling” or “kingly” power.
  - 4.) Ischus – “personal” power.
- ✓ All those words appear in this passage. Paul prayed that we’d see the “potential power” that’s available to us. It’s the same “kingly power” and “personal power” that “exploded” (was released) when God raised Christ from the dead.
- ✓ In other words, there was a day when all of God’s kingly power and personal power was put into the form of energy. It exploded in the devil’s face at the moment Christ was raised from the dead. That’s the power that’s available to meet your need!

*“Oh, the utter extravagance of His work in us who trust Him – **endless power, boundless strength**. All this power issues from Christ: God raised Him from death and set Him on a Throne in Heaven, **in charge of running the universe – everything from galaxies to governments**, no name and no power exempt from His rule. And not just for the time being, but forever. **He is in charge of it all!**”* (MSG)

- ✓ Jesus is greater than any need you could possibly have. And He’s willing to use His great power on your behalf (Eph. 3:20).

### 1.) Jesus Is Greater Than Sin

- ✓ If we “went around the room” sharing our testimonies of how we came to Christ, we’d probably find “big sinners” among us, and others who weren’t so big. But however big your sins were, they weren’t enough to keep you out of the Kingdom.
- ✓ One of the greatest testimonies I’ve ever heard is that of David Berkowitz, (the “Son of Sam” serial killer from the 1970’s.) He’s currently serving six life sentences for his crimes. Ten years into his sentence, he was gloriously saved. He’s going to be in prison for a long time. So, for the past 37 years, he’s been running a ministry from his prison cell.
- ✓ History is full of men with similar testimonies. (The man who wrote the famous hymn, “Amazing Grace”, was once a slave trader.) The worst of sinners in the deepest of sin is one prayer away from a brand-new life because Jesus is greater than sin.

### 2.) Jesus Is Greater Than the Devil

- ✓ At the same time we’re magnifying the Lord, we should also be shrinking the devil.

*Eph. 1:20-21 – “(God) set Him (Jesus) at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power ...”*

- ✓ Not a little bit above. Far above! We need to understand that God and the devil are not equal opposites.

#### Expressions of Power:

- When God Created the Universe, He Used His Fingers (Ps. 8:3)
- When He Created the Earth, He Used His Hands (Heb. 1:10)
- When God Saved Us, He Used His Arm (Isa. 59:16)
- When Jesus Cast Out Devils ... (Luke 11:20-21, 1 John 4:4, Col. 2:15 Phillips, Isa. 14:14-16)

### 3.) Jesus Is Greater Than Your Failures

- ✓ Hebrews 11, the “Hall of Fame” for faith, is full of failures. (Noah got drunk, Abraham gave his wife away – twice, Sarah laughed at God, Moses killed an Egyptian, Samson visited prostitutes ...) Heroes don’t always start out looking like heroes!
- ✓ Thomas Edison was sent home with a note that said, “Please don’t send Tommy to school anymore. He’s too stupid to learn anything.”
- ✓ Michael Jordan was cut from his high school basketball team.
- ✓ Walt Disney was fired from his newspaper job for showing a lack of creativity.
- ✓ Albert Einstein was four years old before he could talk. He stammered until he was nine. He was advised by his teachers to drop out of school. They said he wouldn’t amount to much.
- ✓ Abraham Lincoln experienced a string of failures. At 22, he failed in business. At 23, he ran for the Legislature and lost. At 24, he failed in business again. At 25, he was elected to the Legislature, but it was short-lived. At 26, his sweetheart died. At 27, he had a nervous breakdown. At 29, he ran for the Speaker of the House, but lost. At 31, he ran for the Electorate and lost. At 32, he ran for Congress and lost. At 37, he made it to Congress. At 39, he ran for Congress again and lost. At 46, he ran for the Senate and lost. At 47, he ran for Vice President and lost. At 48, he ran for the Senate and lost. At 51, he was elected President of the United States.

*Heb. 11:32 – “And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong.”*

- ✓ The Secret to Success in Life is This: Get up one more time than you fall down (Micah 7:8, 2 Cor. 4:9, Prov. 24:16). Failure isn’t the end.