

# Magnifying God in Prayer

**Scripture:** Eph. 3:20-21

## **Introduction:**

- Does anyone know what this is? Magnifying Glass
- We've all played with these before right?
- Some things are interesting when magnified
- Some things are not

**Question:** What kind of things do we magnify in our lives?

- fun and entertainment
  - friends
  - work
  - relationships
- \*We do choose daily what we make big in our lives.

Lately we have been working very hard on building a relationship with God through prayer. Indeed many of us have been stretching ourselves and growing closer to God and closer to each other.

I would like you to do a little mental exercise with me. Let's rewind our mental tape 20 minutes or so to the opening prayer. What if Jesus was asked to do the opening prayer? What if our Lord came forward and stood behind this podium and prayed  
....what would he say?

If he were on the schedule, a week ahead of time, I am convinced we would probably have a record attendance....Why? It would be incredible to hear what would come out of his mouth in prayer, right?

**What would he say to the Father, what would he say about us to the father?**

**TS.** We can get a pretty good idea about this very thing in the Lord's prayer. Not the "Our father who art in heaven" that's how we should pray. I am talking about John 17 where we have the longest recorded prayer of Jesus.

**Read:** Let's read John 17 as we consider magnifying God in our lives.

**First the disciples were listening Verse 13**

**Lesson:**

I. **First** Jesus Prays for God to be glorified in his life. (Verse 1)

-Word glorify means:

-To ascribe glory and honor

-To celebrate

-To recognize Him for who and what he is

-To celebrate with praises, worship, and admiration

\*The best word here might be (Magnify)

-Jesus wanted his life to magnify God

-Satan when he tempted Christ he was trying to get Christ to magnify himself but, Jesus insisted otherwise.

**With glorification in mind, Jesus prays that:**

1. God would be glorified through the fulfillment of his mission

-(Eternal life for man) Verse 2-3

-Ransom for many

-Redeemer

-Atoning sacrifice for our sins

-His mission

2. God would be glorified through his obedience Verse 4

-(accomplished the work you gave me to do)

-Jesus had a choice and he choose God

-Through his submission to the fathers will

-Not meaning less important but willing and obedient

3. God would be glorified through his work Verse 6

-“You gave them to me”

-Entrusted them to me

-God placed the disciples in Jesus’ hands

\*He had a responsibility to them

4. God would be glorified through His speaking God’s words and not his own. 17:8

\*Let’s note that the rest of Jesus’ prayer

-Surrounds this idea of glorifying God.

**TS Having noted this:**

## II. Second Jesus mentions that the disciples glorify him. (V: 10)

- Why would Jesus go through all this talk of glorifying God only to turn around and say something of his glorification.
- Remember how many times Jesus says what yours is mine and mine is yours. Etc.
  - And You and I are one
- Jesus wants the disciples and us to remember that the way to God is through the son
  - Acts 4:12 “No other name by which we must be saved”
  - When you bring glory to Jesus you bring glory to God

## III. For Disciples Third, Jesus prayed for the disciple’s spirituality (V 11-18)

1. Jesus prays for “God to keep them in his name” (Verse 11)
  - Protect them spiritually
  - Not to fall away or turn their backs on God
    - Why is he concerned about this?
      - Because disciples were in the world
      - Satan is real and after us 1 Pet 5:8
2. Jesus prays for their Unity “they may be one as we are one” (Verse 11)
  - Jesus knows how easy it is for us to get bent out of shape about things.
    - How much of the NT is about unity?.....Lot
    - Satan uses disunity against us
    - \*Jesus knows, in many ways, it is easier for us to fight and argue than to love each other.**
3. Jesus prays for their Spiritual strength (Verse 15-18)
  - For them Not to blend in (Verse 15)
    - “Not take them out of the world but keep them from the evil one.”
    - In the world but not of the world.
  - Sanctify them in truth, Your word is truth” Verse 17
  - Set apart by God’s word.
4. Jesus prays for their Mission (Verse 18)
  - “As you sent me into the world ..I have sent them”

IV. **Forth, He prayed for those who would believe through their message** (Verse 20)

-Lost and future Christians

-“So that the world may believe that You sent me” Verse 21

-Let the world know I am the Christ

V. **Fifth, He prayed for his disciples to be with Him in glory** (Verse 24)

-Jesus desires for the disciples to “Be with me where I am”

-Jesus says in John 14:2-3

-“In my fathers house are many dwelling places; if it were not so I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

-If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself, that where I am there you may be also

VI. **Finally Jesus prayed for God’s Love to be in them** (Verse 26)

-1 Cor 13

-1 John

\*Jesus knows that when we are filled with God’s Love all these things Will happen in our lives.

-1 John 4:12b “...if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.”

**Conclusion:**

CHURCH, AS OF A MATTER OF URGANCY WE SHOULD PRAY ON THESE SAME MATTERS.

**We should pray that:**

1. God to be glorified in everything we do
2. We remember our path is through Jesus
3. We need spiritual protection
4. The lost need you
5. Jesus wants us in heaven with him
6. We must keep God’s love in our hearts.

Did you notice the place of the diciples in Jesus’ prayer

-Couched between God’s glorification and God’s Love

\*Is this where you are this morning?

\* MAY GOD BE GLORIFIED IN OUR LIVES