

Psalm 34:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

Analysis

O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together. David invites communal worship—calling others to join in magnifying and exalting God. This establishes corporate dimension of praise, moving from individual testimony (v. 2) to collective celebration.

O magnify the LORD with me issues invitation. Magnify (gadal) means to make great, enlarge, honor as great. We cannot literally make God greater than He is, but we magnify Him in perception, declaration, reputation. As telescope magnifies distant stars (making visible what was always great), our praise magnifies God (declaring openly what is eternally true). With me invites others into David's worship experience. Praise isn't isolated private activity but communal corporate engagement.

Let us exalt his name together continues invitation. Exalt (rum) means to lift up, raise high, elevate. His name represents God's revealed character—who He is, how He acts, what He's promised. Together emphasizes corporate unity. Worship is both vertical (toward God) and horizontal (with fellow believers). We don't merely praise alongside others; we praise with others, our voices joining in unified exaltation.

This verse models evangelism and discipleship. Having experienced God's goodness (vv. 1-2), David invites others to taste and see (v. 8). Personal testimony naturally leads to corporate worship. Saved individuals call others to join

salvation's celebration. Reformed ecclesiology emphasizes corporate worship's centrality—individual piety finds expression and formation in gathered community. We worship personally but never privately; faith is individual but never isolated.

New Testament echoes this call. Hebrews 10:24-25 commands not forsaking assembly but provoking one another to love and good works. Early church devoted themselves to fellowship, breaking bread, prayers (Acts 2:42). Paul commanded: Let word of Christ dwell richly in you, teaching and admonishing in psalms, hymns, spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to LORD (Colossians 3:16). Together worship strengthens individual faith while building corporate witness.

Historical Context

Corporate worship was central to Israel's identity. Three annual pilgrimage festivals brought families to Jerusalem. Sabbath assemblies gathered communities. Temple worship involved massive choirs, instrumental accompaniment, congregational responses. Psalms were Israel's hymnbook—not for private devotion only but corporate singing. Going up to house of LORD with glad multitudes (Psalm 42:4) was joy, not duty.

Let us language appears throughout Psalms, calling covenant community to join in praise (Psalms 34:3, 66:5, 95:1-2,6, 100:1-2). This wasn't individualism but tribal/covenantal solidarity. One person's experience with God becomes community's testimony. Early church continued this pattern—gathering regularly, singing together, sharing testimonies, building corporate faith.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does corporate worship (magnifying and exalting together) differ from and enhance individual devotion?
2. What does it mean practically to magnify the LORD—to make His greatness more visible through praise?
3. Why does David invite with me rather than commanding come? What does this teach about evangelism?
4. In what ways does your personal worship lead naturally to inviting others to join in magnifying God?
5. How can modern individualistic church cultures recover biblical emphasis on together worship?

Interlinear Text

וְגַדֵּל וְלִיהְיוּ הָאָתִים					
O magnify	the LORD	H854	with me and let us exalt	his name	together
H1431	H3068		H7311	H8034	H3162

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 69:30 (Parallel theme): I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.

Luke 1:46 (References Lord): And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,

Psalms 40:16 (References Lord): Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually, The LORD be magnified.

Psalms 35:27 (References Lord): Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.

Psalms 66:8 (Parallel theme): O bless our God, ye people, and make the voice of his praise to be heard:

1 Chronicles 29:20 (References Lord): And David said to all the congregation, Now bless the LORD your God. And all the congregation blessed the LORD God of

their fathers, and bowed down their heads, and worshipped the LORD, and the king.

Acts 19:17 (References Lord): And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

2 Chronicles 29:30 (References Lord): Moreover Hezekiah the king and the princes commanded the Levites to sing praise unto the LORD with the words of David, and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshipped.

Revelation 14:7 (Parallel theme): Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Philippians 1:20 (Parallel theme): According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

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