

Living with an Eternal Perspective

Zoom Bible Study | Tuesdays @ 7:00pm (CST)

Led by Mary Lowman

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Lesson One

Can you think of the positive changes that would happen in your world if you and all others in your life truly had at least a 24-hour perspective?

- How many arguments would be eliminated?
- How many hurt feelings would be eliminated?
- How many regretful reactions would be avoided?
- How many unkind words would never be said?
- How many blood pressures would be lowered?
- How many headaches would be avoided?

And all of that with a mere 24-hour perspective.

That simple illustration is what this study is all about: Learning to have a long-term perspective. However, we need more than a twenty-four-hour outlook. We need an eternal one.

2 Corinthians 4:17 – 18:

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

How can we see what is unseen?

A important question to ask:

What difference will this make in eternity?

Imagine the changes in your life – and mine – if we determined that we would regularly use that yardstick to determine and control our priorities, our time management, our relationships, our dreams and aspirations. How much stress and frustration and anger and depression and discouragement could you and I take out of our lives if we simply asked ourselves that question at least once a day?

Because those of us born from above have the God-given power to see what is truly important, it gives us many great advantages! We have the ability to:

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| • See consequences | • Avoid the tyranny of the urgent |
| • Avoid temptation | • Discern people and their intentions much better |
| • Establish correct priorities | • Accept the uncontrollable |
| • Make the best use of our time | • Live a contented life |
| • Love unlovable people | |



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“Seeing” God

Job declared:

I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes – I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me! (Job 19:25-27).

Jesus told the disciples:

*“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”
Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us” (John 14:6 - 8).*

Look at Jesus

Hebrews 1:3a:

The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

John 1:18:

No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

Hebrews 12:2:

...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

This must become our daily prayer, if we would see God, that our eyes would stay fixed on Jesus.

How do we see God by seeing Jesus since we can’t even see Jesus now?

Get to Know Jesus

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. (John 17:3).

Read the Gospels regularly.

Everyday read at least a chapter in one of the gospels. Read with fresh eyes as though you’ve never read it before. Put yourself in the action.

A demo of how this works:

John 5:16- 18, 24 – 27:

So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. ¹⁷ In his defense Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.” ¹⁸ For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

²⁴ “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. ²⁵ Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. ²⁷ And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

- If you were one of the twelve disciples, what would you be thinking? Would you be concerned about what Jesus is saying to the Jewish leaders?
- If you were in the crowd listening to Jesus, what would be your reaction to hear this man make these claims about himself and God?
- Imagine the conversation you would have with your mate or friend after you heard Jesus say this.

Magnify the Lord

David spoke of magnifying the Lord:

Psalm 34:3 (KJV): *O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.*

Psalm 35:27b(KJV): *Let them say continually, Let the Lord be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.*

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

What does it mean to magnify the Lord?

How can you magnify the Lord?

- You magnify the Lord when you think about him a great deal.
- You magnify the Lord when you worship him, privately and together with other believers.
- You magnify the Lord when you refuse to allow the wrong things to be magnified in your mind.
- You magnify the Lord when you intentionally take your mind off yourself and put it on the Lord.

Adjust Your Focus

It's very easy to magnify the wrong thing. You can look at the important things that are happening, or you can instead watch the trivial, unimportant things. It depends on where your eyes are focused!

Make sure, whatever you do, that each day you get your eyes focused on Jesus at the beginning of your day and keep them there all day long.

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus," **Hebrews 12:2** begins. Notice that the responsibility of where we fix our eyes is on us. Let us fix our eyes. . . We decide whether we will have an eternal perspective and magnify the Lord, or whether we will continue to have the wrong focus.

Eyes fixed on Jesus – that's what it means to magnify the Lord.