

Be Magnified

By Lynn DeShazo

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The Scriptures teach us that the playing of music before the Lord in worship actually facilitates the prophet's ministry. In the third chapter of II Kings, we find the account of the prophet Elisha calling for a minstrel so that he might prophesy the word of the Lord to King Jehoshaphat. As the minstrel played, the hand of the Lord came upon Elisha to prophesy to the king of Judah. One of the observations I have made about my own life and gifting is the power of the music I play before the Lord to draw out of me the musical "word of the Lord", or prophetic song. This was definitely the case with the song "Be Magnified".

One morning during the closing weeks of 1990, I sat down at my desk with the intention of listening through some "song idea" tapes until I found something that interested me enough to work on it. I picked up my guitar instead, strummed a chord, and was quite startled to hear something approximating these words come out of my mouth:

*I have made You too small in my eyes
O Lord, forgive me
And I have believed in a lie
That You were unable to help me*

I just sat there stunned. I had no idea in that moment where I might have come up with such a thought, but I distinctly remember saying aloud to myself, "I think that's important!" I carefully recorded my melody and lyric idea for the song on a cassette tape and set it aside for further development.

Over the next few weeks, I pondered those initial lyrics and asked the Lord's help for the direction the song should take. I finished writing "Be Magnified" in early January of 1991. A sense of quiet satisfaction filled my heart when I knew the song was completed. I had a confidence in my spirit that this song was significant. I didn't know in what way, of course. I just knew. I began to teach "Be Magnified" in my own church and in other places where I had occasion to lead worship or to share a new song. My hopes were confirmed as word got back to me that other churches were beginning to sing it in their worship services. In 1993, Integrity Music selected it for a live worship album that was recorded in Jacksonville, Florida and featured Randy Rothwell as the worship leader. "Be Magnified", in fact, became the title for that recording.

Personally, I have been astounded at the response to "Be Magnified". People have shared with me how their entire churches were deeply touched by the Lord through this song. Several people have taken the time to write to me with their individual testimonies concerning the encouragement "Be Magnified" has been to them. I was told by friends that the song was sung a great deal during ministry time for pastors at the Toronto Airport (then Vineyard) Church during the early days of the "Toronto blessing". I am

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awed again and again to hear of such reports. I thank God for letting me have a hand in a song that seemed to be a unique expression for a unique time in the Church.

Be Magnified

I have made You too small in my eyes
O Lord, forgive me
And I have believed in a lie
That You were unable to help me
But now, O Lord, I see my wrong
Heal my heart and show Yourself strong
And in my eyes and with my song
O Lord, be magnified
O Lord, be magnified

Chorus:

Be magnified, O Lord
You are highly exalted
And there is nothing You can't do
O Lord, my eyes are on You
Be magnified
O Lord, be magnified.

I have leaned on the wisdom of men
O Lord, forgive me
And I have responded to them
Instead of Your light and Your mercy
But now, O Lord, I see my wrong
Heal my heart and show Yourself strong
And in my eyes and with my song
O Lord, be magnified
O Lord, be magnified

Words and music by Lynn DeShazo
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