

THANKFUL FOR GOD'S FAVOR
THANKSGIVING – PART 2 OF 2
PSALM 138:1-2, 7-8

A CALL TO THANKSGIVING

1. Our duty is to offer the sacrifice of praise **continually**, not the fruit of the ground or cattle, but the fruit of our **lips**, giving thanks to His name (Heb. 13:15).
2. God is “**good**” and we give **thanks** to the Lord because He is “good” (Ps. 136:1).
3. The **gentleness** of God is shown by His merciful nature (Ps. 136:2-3).

KEY THOUGHT: Keep your eyes and thoughts **upward** to our God and King (Ps. 136:26).

I. THANKFULNESS ENHANCES OUR WORSHIP (PSALM 138:1-2).

- A. David’s mind is so “**taken** up” with God that he does not mention His **name** (Ps. 138:1).

“I will give You thanks with all my heart...”

1. David “**sees**” God with his mind’s eye because Jehovah is so **intimately** known.
2. David is resolved to praise God with the **whole force** of his life, with his whole heart.
3. David would not **restrain** his praise even in the presence of the **opponents** of the living God (Ps. 138:1b; 82:1).

- B. Thankfulness leads to worshipping God in **His** own **way** (Ps. 138:2).

“I will bow down toward Your holy temple...”

1. We are to **adore** the true God by looking at Jesus who is the **Living** Lord (Ps. 138:2).
2. **Praise** would be the main focus of David’s worship with the name and character of God being the great **object** of his song (Ps. 138:2c; 2 Sam. 7:18-29).

KEY THOUGHT: The very best method is to go on **personally** worshipping the Lord with unwavering **zeal**, singing with heart and voice His royal praises (Ps. 138:4-6).

II. THANKFULNESS RECOUNTS THE ASSURANCE OF OUR SALVATION (PS. 138:7-8).

- A. Sorrow and trouble **quicken** our hearts for God and **summon** the energy of the Holy Spirit which indwells every believer (Ps. 138:7).

“Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me...”

1. When trouble surrounds us, we must keep walking forward as God pours **fresh life** into us (Ps. 138:7; Gen. 3:8-19; John 21:15-17).
2. God has **pledged** to be **with** us in trying times (Is. 43:2-3a).
3. Since God is reviving us, we should not **regret** any **affliction** (Ps. 138:7b-c).

- B. All my interests are **safe** in Jehovah’s hands (Ps. 138:8).

“The Lord will accomplish what concerns me...”

1. God is concerned with **all** that concerns **His** servants (Ps. 138:8a).
2. We understand that God’s work will be **completed** in His **way** in His **time** (Ps. 138:8b).
3. Our confidence does not cause us to live without **prayer**, but encourages us to pray all the **more** (John 17:4, 18, 20-21).

KEY THOUGHT: Our God, who has gone so far with us, will persevere until **He** is **finished** (Ps. 138:8).

FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH

November 27, 2011

SUNDAY: *Our job is to continually give praise and thanks in the Lord's name (Heb. 13:15)!*

The amazing truth concerning praise is the power it provides for victory in our lives. The army of God was preceded by the choir singing praises to the Almighty God (2 Chron. 20:21-22). The power of praise and prayer is underestimated in the lives of God's servants. Praise and prayer win battles! Praise and prayer are the offensive weapons of the kingdom of God! Prayer is not our default position, but our primary position. God is "good", and we give thanks to the Lord because He is "good" (Ps. 136:1). We serve a loving and gentle God. The gentleness of God is shown by His merciful nature (Ps. 136:2-3). Prayer and praise are our source of power and joy! Keep your eyes and thoughts upward to our God and King (Ps. 136:26)! Stop right this minute and praise the Lord for His provision in your life. Ask for His power to become evident in your life and ministry for Him. *May this be the beginning of an exciting chapter of your life!*

MONDAY: *Train your eyes to look vertically toward God (Ps. 136:26)!*

The nature of the human condition is to constantly lower our gaze to the horizontal. To become immersed in the menial, everyday drudgery of life on earth is to blunt the purpose of the Christian's mission (2 Tim. 2:4). Lift your eyes to the heavens to see the Lord high and lifted up. Allow Him to steal your gaze and hold it on Himself (Ps. 136:26). Live with an understanding of the majesty of God. Pursue improbable areas of ministry and strive for the extreme edges of faith. Shun the ordinary, routine life of meager faith and step out on the limb where Paul and others have lived. Faith is the victory! Live by faith in the Son of God. Train your eyes to look vertically toward God! Ask the Lord to increase your faith. Pray for a life that is beyond the "normal" of horizontal Christianity. Choose to live with the Lord by faith with a vertical gaze. *May this choice truly change who you are in the kingdom of God!*

TUESDAY: *David was consumed with the thought of the Lord in Psalm 138 (Ps. 138:1)!*

David "sees" God with his mind's eye because Jehovah is so intimately known to him. David refers to the Lord as "Thee" because of the intimate nature of their relationship. David is resolved to praise God with the whole force of his life, with his whole heart. David's whole heart was occupied with only one thing, praising his great God. Independent of anything else, David would not restrain his praise of God even in the presence of the opponents of the living God (Ps. 138:1b). Our God looks down on the gods of this world and judges them (Ps. 82:1). David was unafraid of the gods of this world and their worshippers. His sole focus was the worship of the Lord God Jehovah. Praise and prayer is powerful when we focus on our Lord and His plan for this world. Make the commitment right now to yourself and to the Lord to start making prayer your number one task in the ministry. Begin your commitment to the ministry of prayer today. *May the power of prayer become evident immediately in your life!*

WEDNESDAY: *Answered prayer creates a thankful heart (2 Sam. 24:25; 1 Chron. 5:20; Ezra 8:23)!*

Thankfulness leads to worshipping God in His way own way (Ps. 138:2). In the Old Testament, worshippers entered the holy temple and gave their sacrifice to the priest to offer to God. Today, Christians are to adore the true God by looking at Jesus who is the Living Lord

(Ps. 138:2). Remember, praise would be the main focus of David's worship with the name and character of God being the great object of his song (2 Sam. 7:18-29). David prayed with awe and thanksgiving over God's sovereign promise to bestow divine blessing on the nation of Israel. God heard his prayer and placed David's heir on the throne forever and gave Israel her permanent home. Nothing has changed today. Praise and prayer are still to be the main focus of our worship of our Lord God. Lift your voice and heart to the Lord today and everyday in praise and worship. *May the lifestyle of prayer become second nature to you in the days ahead!*

THURSDAY: *Pursue the Lord with the full force of your life (Ps. 138:1)!* The kings of the earth will all eventually worship Jehovah. The Christian is to pursue worshipping the Lord with passion. Every ounce of who we are is to be poured into our worship. The very best method is to go on personally worshipping the Lord with unwavering zeal, singing with heart and voice His royal praises (Ps. 138:4-6). Have you ever done something with unwavering zeal? Has any one passion seized every ounce of your focus and strength? Praise and prayer to our Lord God is the one thing worthy of such zeal. Praise and pray with the "full force" of your life! Pray for the focus. Ask for the abandonment to everything else in this life other than your desire to be joined with the Lord in His work in our town. *May this become the key event of everyday of your life for the next week!*

FRIDAY: *Thankfulness recounts the assurance of our salvation (Ps. 138:7-8)!* Life will not always be easy. The wind will not always be filling your sails. Sorrow and trouble will find you as sure as rain falls on the land. Sorrow and trouble quicken our hearts for God and summon the energy of the Holy Spirit which indwells every believer (Ps. 138:7). When trouble surrounds us, we must keep walking forward as God pours fresh life into us (Gen. 3:8-19; John 21:15-17). Peter has failed the Lord miserably, yet Jesus told Peter to move forward and care for His lambs. God has pledged to be with us in trying times (Is. 43:2-3a). Praise and prayer do not slacken during difficult times. Since God is reviving us, we should not regret any affliction (Ps. 138:7b-c). Pray faithfully for the task at hand even when it seems difficult and arduous. The Lord will be with you and His church in the midst of struggle and sorrow. Pray for the strength and power of the Lord to carry you through any trouble or sorrow that befalls you. *May the Lord make your feet light even when trouble should weigh you down!*

SATURDAY: *"The Lord will accomplish what concerns me" (Ps. 138:8a)!* God is concerned with all that concerns His servants (Ps. 138:8a). Trouble and sorrow are obstacles that He can overcome at the desired moment. Struggle and sorrow refine and purify our character and train our mind to remain focused on the Lord. We understand that God's work will be completed in His way in His time (Ps. 138:8b). Our salvation is evidence of our great God, and in this we have overcoming confidence. However, our confidence does not cause us to live without prayer, but encourages us to pray all the more (John 17:4, 18, 20-21). Our God, who has gone so far with us, will persevere until He is finished (Ps. 138:8). Pray as if the Lord knows nothing, but be confident He knows everything. *May the adventure of prayer stretch you and refine your walk with God!*