

GRATEFUL HEARTS

Psalm 138

INTRODUCTION: On the Mayflower, on November 9, 1620, the small sailing ship that brought 102 Puritan believers who left England in search of religious freedom came a hymn of thanksgiving: Psalm 100:1-5 and then fell on their knees praising their Lord. In November 1621 they had their first Thanksgiving feast. Continual thanksgiving should be the natural response of a child of God in any age or circumstance. 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

I. WE SHOULD PRAISE GOD FOR HIS CHARACTER!

Psalm 138:1: to praise is "to point at with your hand." When King Solomon dedicated the Temple he prayed: 1 Kings 8:35-36. Before the gods or idols of the pagans we will proclaim the Name of our Lord. Giving thanks or worship is always to point to God! It is not about how we feel but about Who God is and what our God has done! Thanksgiving and praise cause us to focus on the magnificent character of our God, not on what other people believe or don't believe.

II. WE SHOULD WORSHIP GOD FOR HIS LOVING KINDNESS AND TRUTH!

King David's worship was directed to the Temple where the presence of God dwelt in the Holy of Holies. David confessed there is only one true God and showed spiritual humility to worship his God! Psalm 138:2. True worship is to acknowledge who God is and to direct our thoughts, words, and actions to honor Him. Worship is about God and not about us. David worships two characteristics of God's character: God's loving kindness meant He would keep His covenant with Israel even if they did not keep their covenant with Him. God's truth means He is consistent to keep His promises. God magnified His Word above His Name: Psalm 138:2; Exodus 20:7. God's Word reveals His character so that our faith may continue to grow as we trust in Him.

III. WE SHOULD PRAISE OUR GOD FOR STRENGTHENING US!

Psalm 138:3: It is not always our situations that need to be changed; so often it is our faith that needs to become firm and solid. Our God wants us to trust in His character and in His Word! 2 Chronicles 16:9; Isaiah 33:6.

IV. WE SHOULD PRAISE GOD FOR PROTECTION FROM EVIL!

Psalm 138:6-8: the God we serve gives grace to the humble but if we become proud and want to run our own lives we will see God resist us instead of giving us His grace. 1 Peter 5:5. As we chose to humble ourselves, God protects us from evil: Psalm 138:7. Our God reaches out to save us from the troubles we face in our lives. Isaiah 40:29-31; Proverbs 14:27.

V. WE SHOULD THANK OUR LORD FOR HIS PURPOSE FOR OUR LIVES!

Psalm 138:8: Our God has a purpose for each of our lives and He wants to work that purpose out for each of us: Philippians 2:13; Psalm 23:6; Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 12:1-2.