

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

# STRENGTH IN MY SOUL

## PSALMS 138

Text: Psalms 138:3

### ***Psalm 138:3***

*<sup>3</sup> In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul.*

Introduction:

This psalm is thought of as David as its human penman, though every word of God's word was inspired by the Holy Ghost.

### ***2 Peter 1:21***

*<sup>21</sup> For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*

Many think that this was written after that he was delivered from all of his enemies and was seated on the throne of Israel.

It is a psalm of praise. Not just praise but praise that involved the whole heart.

**Psalm 138:1**

<sup>1</sup> *I will praise thee with my **whole heart**: before the gods will I sing praise unto thee.*

We'll say more about this later but the truth is many never praise the Lord with their whole heart. Most often it's half-hearted at best.

I'm reminded of the Swedish hymn "Thanks to God"

Thanks to God for my Redeemer,  
Thanks for all thou dost provide,  
Thanks for times now but a memory,  
Thanks for Jesus by my side.

Thanks for pleasant, balmy springtime,  
Thanks for dark and dreary fall.  
Thanks for tears by now forgotten,  
Thanks for peace within my soul.

Thanks for prayers that thou hast answered,  
Thanks for what thou dost deny,  
Thanks for storms that I have weathered,  
Thanks for all thou dost supply.

Thanks for pain; thanks for pleasure,  
Thanks for comfort in despair,  
Thanks for grace that none can measure,  
Thanks for love beyond compare.

As we consider this psalm of praise three verses are in the first person.

David is personally giving praise to God.

In verses 4-6 speaks like a prophet looking to the future and states the kings that will reign in the future would give the Lord praise as well.

Notice the reasons David gives for praising the Lord with his whole heart. These reasons should serve as an example reasons for us to praise the Lord with our whole heart.

Note David praised with his whole heart because:

Sermon Content:

## **1. GOD HAS MAGNIFIED HIS WORD (VS. 2)**

### ***Psalm 138:2***

*<sup>2</sup> I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for **thou hast magnified thy word** above all thy name.*

The Book you hold right there in your hands is the Word of God. It is perfectly infallible in its inspiration and preservation.

It is called the Word, the Word of God, the Word of Christ, the Word of truth, the Holy Scriptures, the Scripture of truth, the Law of the Lord, the Sword of the Spirit, and the Oracles of God.

It is pure, true, perfect, precious, quick, and powerful. It was written for our instruction and intended for our use.

The Word of God is regenerating, quickening, illuminating, able to convert the soul, able to make the simple wise, sanctifying, faith-producing, hope-producing, obedience producing, able to cleanse the heart, able to cleanse the way, able to keep us from a destructive path, admonishing, comforting, and heart-rejoicing.

It should be our standard and should be believed, appealed to, read, known, received, searched daily, memorized, taught to children and to all, spoken of continually, not handled deceitfully, and should be obeyed.

As a Christian, you should love It exceedingly, delight in It, regard It as sweet, esteem It above all things, long after It, stand in awe of It, keep It in remembrance, hide It in our hearts, hope in It, meditate in It, rejoice in It, trust in It, obey It, and speak of It.

Why make so much of the Word of God and why should it cause us to praise God with our whole heart?

We would all agree that Christ has a name above all names.

***Psalm 8:1***

*<sup>1</sup> O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.*

His name is above all names.

***Acts 4:12***

*<sup>12</sup> Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

There is no other name by which salvation is secured.

So again we all would agree that His name is above all names.

But note Psalms 138:2

***Psalm 138:2***

*<sup>2</sup> I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: **for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.***

Because God has exulted His Word above His name.

***Psalm 138:2***

*<sup>2</sup> I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou **hast magnified thy word above all thy name.***

Note not only did the Magnified Word of God cause David to praise God with his whole heart but also note:

## **2. GOD ANSWERED HIS CRY AND STRENGTHENED HIM (VS. 3)**

***Psalm 138:3***

*<sup>3</sup> In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul.*

David was saying, I had a need that was great and God answered his prayer, and strengthened him in his soul.

That statement in my soul is an interesting statement.

The soul is where our mind, will and emotions reside.

When our mind is consumed with trouble, it affects our will and our emotions.

Too often when people get overwhelmed in their mind, it causes them to grieve themselves sometime to the point of death.

David said, “In the day when I cried, You answered me.

But You didn’t just answer me, you strengthened me with strength in my soul.

That cause David to praise the Lord with his whole heart, and should cause us to praise with our whole-heart as well.

Note a third reason David praised the Lord with his whole-heart.

### **3. GOD WOULD REVIVE HIM AND SAVE HIM (VS. 7)**

#### ***Psalm 138:7***

*<sup>7</sup> Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.*

Again because of the strengthening of his soul he was able to be revived.

I think we see the key to this in verses 4-6.

Notice:

### **Psalm 138:4-6**

*<sup>4</sup> All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O LORD, when they hear the words of thy mouth. <sup>5</sup> Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the LORD: for great is the glory of the LORD. <sup>6</sup> Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off.*

Understand the glory of God will give your pain purpose.

Illustration: John 9 – The blind man born in that condition.

### **John 9:1-3**

*<sup>1</sup> And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. <sup>2</sup> And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.*

The disciples wonder who was to blame for his blindness – this man or his parents.

The Lord answered them that neither were to blame, but this was so that the works of God could be made manifest of in other words is for the glory of God.

Quote: A. W. Tozer

“When viewed from the perspective of eternity, the most critical need of this hour may well be that the church should be brought back from her long Babylonian captivity, and the name of God be glorified in her again as of old.”

When we see Him in His glory revival will be the outcome.

When we see Him in His glory we will see ourselves as we truly are.

**Isaiah 6:1**

*<sup>1</sup> In the year that king Uzziah died **I saw also the Lord** sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.*

**Isaiah 6:5**

*<sup>5</sup> **Then said I, Woe is me!** for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.*

Let me quickly share one additional reason David praised with his whole-heart.

## **4. GOD WILL PERFECT HIS CONCERNS AND HIS MERCY ENDURETH FOREVER (VS. 8)**

### ***Psalm 138:8***

*<sup>8</sup> The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.*

The words “will perfect” means to bring to an end, or cause to cease.

God was going to end or cause to cease the concerns that David had.

We have pictured in these verses of One (God) at work and the tools He is using while He is working is mercy and faithfulness.

God is involved in our lives working with the tools on our behalf, to accomplish what He wants to see fulfilled in our lives.

The God who blew that universe into action, and flung the stars into space, and set up that timepiece in all of this orbiting around us, and yet cares about the thing that concerns you and me.

Close:

David stated that he would praise with his whole heart.

We too should follow his example.

We should praise God with our whole heart because:

- He has Magnified His Word
- He has Answered Our Prayers and Strengthened Our Soul
- He revives and saves us
- He will bring closure to our concerns