

## **Psalm 138 "I give thanks to you O Lord"**

### **Read Psalm 138**

1. (vs. 1-2) The psalmist is in the midst of trouble (vs. 7) and yet gives thanks. What can be learned about the object and nature of this thankfulness?
2. (vs. 3) The result of David's thankfulness is that his strength of soul was increased. This means that he was encouraged, emboldened, the stability of his foundation was increased.

*Now read Philippians 4:4-7; 10-13.* The result of Paul's thankfulness in the midst of his time in prison was a peace that guarded his heart, the diminishment of anxiety and worry, the possession of a contentment which no circumstance could rob him of.

How does the thankfulness you explored in question 1 lead to these realities?

3. Thankfulness is naturally produced when we find a change of circumstance, the removal of our problems. David however is thankful prior to any resolution to his trouble. What does this reveal about the relationship between thankfulness *for* and trust *in* the character of God?
4. (vs. 8) This thankfulness for the character of God leads David to having a lens on his present trouble. The language of this verse gives a picture of God fashioning us into a beautiful piece of pottery motivated by his love alone. How does this image help us to navigate our troubles?
5. All that David asks is that God wouldn't forsake him (meaning relax the muscles of his hand so as to drop him). What assurance do we have that God will never leave us nor forsake us?