

The Nature of Praise
Psalm 138

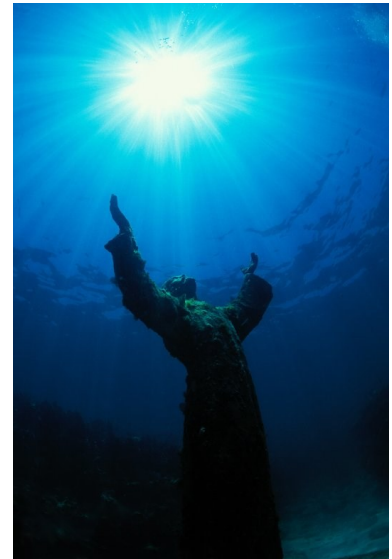
Intro: In this dynamic thanksgiving psalm, David connects praise with prayer. He proclaims that *the purpose of prayer is to glorify God!* One author suggests that prayer and praise are but two parts of a spiritual plant. Prayer is the rootage of the plant, and praise is the flower. When we pray fervently and dependently, God answers. And our response to His gracious answer is to give praise to His holy name. ***This is why we pray. So that when God answers us, we may offer up praise and thanksgiving to Him!***

I. David Praises God for Answered Prayer (vv. 1-3)

- A. The response of praise to God (vv. 1-2a)
 - B. The reason for praise: (vv. 2b-3)
 - 1. For God's loyal love and truth (v. 2b)
 - 2. For God's word and name (v. 2c)
 - 3. For God's answer to prayer and strength (v. 3)

II. David Predicts God's Future Praise (vv. 4-6)

- A. The kings of the earth will give God thanks (v. 4)
- B. The kings of the earth will sing of God's ways (v. 5)
- C. The King of glory—Yahweh—exalts the *lowly*, but rejects the *lofty* or prideful man (v. 6)



Praise the LORD of glory!

III. David Praises God for Future Deliverance (vv. 7-8)

- A. David professes confidence in the LORD (v. 7; **cf. Phil 1:6**)
- B. David praises the LORD, because His lovingkindness is everlasting (v. 8)

Applications:

1. How can we better ***serve our Lord Jesus?***
2. Diligent prayer *will result in a harvest of praise to God!*
3. It is better to be clothed with *humility* than with *utility*.
4. *It is fullness of the heart that gives the lips fruitful expression.*