

**Psalm 138: 1-8 (ESV): The Lord Will Fulfill
His Purpose for Me**



Main point: You have purpose here and now.

Open with a short prayer, inviting God to teach us.

Background: A psalm of David, who wrote many of the Psalms with deep emotions.

Focus of the study:

- ¹I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;
- ²I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,
for you have exalted above all things
your name and your word.
- ³On the day I called, you answered me;
my strength of soul you increased. ...
- ⁶For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly,
but the haughty he knows from afar.
- ⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life;
you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies,
and your right hand delivers me.
- ⁸The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.

Questions:

1. *What is the writer's attitude in verse 1?*
 - a. thankful with whole heart
 - b. praising God
2. *Why?*
 - a. v. 2: "for your steadfast love and your faithfulness"
 - b. v. 3: "on the day I called, you answered me"
 - c. v. 3: you increased my "strength of soul" – *I wonder what that means? How does God strengthen you day to day? How has he strengthened you over the course of your life?*
3. *What else does God do?*
 - a. v. 6: "he regards the lowly" – *who are the lowly?*
 - i. We are! And others who need him – like who? People who are hurting, children, the powerless, etc.
 - b. *What does "haughty" mean? Why does pride keep you far from God?*
 - i. A false feeling that you don't need God, can make it on your own.

4. Let's read verse 7 again: "Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life." *What kind of trouble have you walked through? How does God help you through trouble?*
 5. Let's read verse 8 again: "The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me." *Is the Lord done with you yet? How do you know?*
 - a. If you are alive, YOU STILL HAVE PURPOSE – and he will fulfill it.
 6. *What kind of purposes can you have today? What can you do to see God and to serve God?*
 - a. meet together to talk about spiritual things (like right now!)
 - b. encourage other people and help them
 - c. call on God for answers (v. 3)
 - d. PRAY for others
 7. *Who could you pray for today?*
 - a. Go around the circle and have people name someone they could pray for (it's OK if they say "my mother and father," or other people long gone; just go with it). You might even write down the people they name, and include them in your own prayers later.
 8. Reiterate that each and every one of us has *purpose*. "If you are still here, you have purpose, and the Lord *will* fulfill it."
- Ask for any other prayer requests for today.
 - Close in prayer, naming people and needs listed.
 - End with a song, e.g., first verse of Amazing Grace

Psalm 138: 1-8

¹ I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;

² I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast
love and your faithfulness,
for you have exalted above all things
your name and your word.

³ On the day I called, you answered me;
my strength of soul you increased. ...

⁶ For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly,
but the haughty he knows from afar.

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life;

you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my
enemies,

and your right hand delivers me.

⁸ The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.