

A Quiet Time Guide

Witness: Psalm 138 A Psalm of David

Read through the Psalm. Pause and read through it again, slowly.

Consider verses 1-3. What is David thankful for and to what degree is he thankful? What is the motivating force behind David's thanksgiving? What does David do with his thankfulness? Who does he tell?

Consider the loving ways that God cares for David and for us. Thomas Watson, a 17th century British theologian offers this insight: *"Thou strengthens me with strength in my soul. Other masters cut out work for their servants, but do not help them in their work; but our Master in heaven doth not only give us work, but strength. God bids us serve him, and he will enable us to serve him... The Lord doth not only fit work for us, but fits us for our work; with his command he gives power."*

Spend a little time giving thanks to God for the ways that he has strengthened you in recent days. Who might you tell of God's strengthening love and remind them that he will meet them in their need?

In verses 4-6 there is a lot of praise, how is singing different from speaking?

Meditate on verses 7 & 8. There is a lot of action, whose work is it anyway? We often forget this truth and yet it is good news, something for us to remind others. Consider a recent illustration in your own life of how God took care of your concerns. Would you be willing to give witness to this?

How does the practice of witness show up in this Psalm? What is the relationship between gratitude, hearing God's word and witness?

Could a question for a faculty friend be as simple as: "Where do you see God at work and what are you thankful for?" This in turn might lead them to be bold in "singing the ways of the Lord."