How to Stir-Up a “Storm” of Great Soul Strength (Psalm 138)

ESV Psalm 138:1 Of David. I give you thanks [“Ya-dah”—“to cast, throw”], O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods [“Elohim”] 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 [“Ra-hav”—“to act stormily, act boisterously”]. 4 All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth, 5 and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD. 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. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Stirring-up a “Storm” of Great Soul Strength: Three Acts

1. Call on the LORD for help on the basis of his “________” (vv. 1-3).

ESV Exodus 34:6 The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,

ESV Psalm 54:1 O God, save me by your name, and vindicate me by your might.

ESV Psalm 25:11 For your name’s sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great.

ESV Jeremiah 14:7 Though our iniquities testify against us, act, O LORD, for your name’s sake;

ESV Isaiah 48:9 For my name’s sake I defer my anger, for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you,

ESV Ezekiel 20:14 But I acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations,

2. Savor the vision of “singing,” marveling ____________ (vv. 4-5).

ESV Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

ESV 1 Peter 4:8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

ESV 1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of the faith.
“How else, then, can the Church be ruled except by this witness? Any other rule can only turn the Church into that which is not the Church … It can consist only in a denial of the character of our time as the time between the ascension and the second coming. We have no other time than this. The only other time is the time of sin and death, which is overcome by the irruption of this time of salvation. If we are not to live again in this time, if the salt of the Church, which is the salt of the earth, is not to lose its savour, it must not be denied that its time has the character of an intervening time.”


ESV 1 Corinthians 7:31 ... For the present form of this world is passing away.

3. Take comfort in the LORD’s exquisite “purpose fulfillment” ____________ (vv. 7-8).

Final thought: Psalm 138 as “hidden, healing medicine” for two more sicknesses...

Digging Deeper

Passages for the Week:

Monday: Psalm 138
Tuesday: Psalm 111
Wednesday: Psalm 57
Thursday: 1 Peter 1
Friday: Psalm 18:1-30
Saturday: Psalm 18:31-50

Our series Summertime Road Music, will take us into a study of the Psalms. You are invited to read each day’s passage and then respond to the following prompts. You might find it beneficial to use a journal or notebook to record insights.

1. Read the passage prayerfully, listening for the voice of God and asking him to speak to you.
2. Record or write down the word, phrase, or verse that God impresses upon you.
3. Reflect and write down what it is about this word, phrase or verse that is meaningful to you.
4. Respond by writing a prayer or recording what it is that you think the Lord wants you to do in response to his word (“Be doers of the word and not hearers only” James 1:22).