



# Thanksgiving 2019

Psalm 138



# Optimistic People vs. Pessimistic People

- **Optimistic** people may focus on the bright side of life: for them, the **future** will be better. And when one stays positive things do often get better—we do better as we are hopeful.
  - **Pessimistic** people on the other hand may mock them as being **unrealistic**. They are being “realistic” about the bad things and not just ignoring them. These people often do not see themselves as pessimistic but rather as being real.
  - But how does all that relate to **thanksgiving**?
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- King David here praises and gives thanks to God— with his **whole heart** (v.1) (Do you?) Buy why?
- It has nothing to do with being optimistic or pessimistic since being thankful is to be both **hopeful** (future) and to see the **reality** as it is (present).
- The reality was not pretty for David (v.1, 7). He recognized his **struggles** but he also sees God, and He hopes in God (v.3, 7-8).
- This is the **true** reality (Heb. 11:1)

## Psalm 138



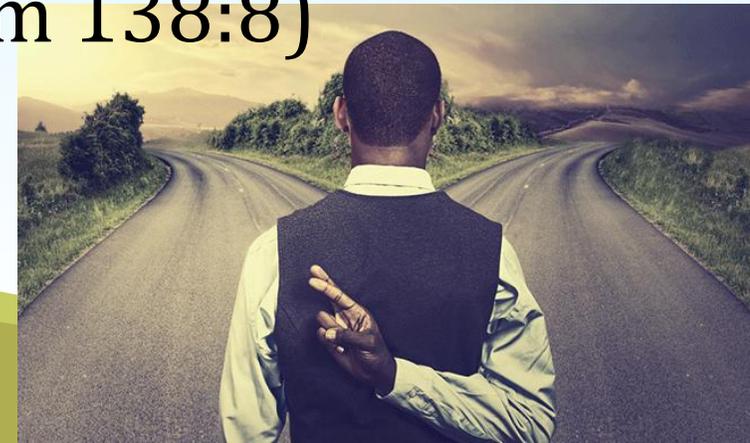
- Many realistic people cannot see “the conviction of things not seen.” We need to see the “bigger” reality.
- We need to thank God for the real reality (truth):
- The truth is that He is both **loving** and **faithful** (v.2)
- He **answers** our prayers (v.3) and **thinks** of us (v.6)
- We can all praise God for what He **has done** (v.5)
- And He **delivers** us from our troubles (v.7)
- And He has a **plan** and a **purpose** for us (v.8)...these are the truth

**Seeing the Bigger Reality**



- Often people “hope” for the best, especially the optimistic people, but that is not the same as to **hope in God** (Heb. 11:1).
- A truly thankful person hopes in God’s **character**. Things will be better not because it will “somehow” get better; but rather God (and his plan) is the best.
- The more we realize **who God is**, the more we are hopeful for tomorrow (Heb. 6:18-19; Psalm 138:8)

**Hope In God and Thanksgiving**





# Grow in Thanksgiving

- It is important for us to **develop** our capacity to give thanks to God both for **today** (the real reality) and for **tomorrow** (what we can hope for)
  - Therefore, both optimists and pessimists can (and must) **grow** in thanksgiving. The more we truly appreciate who God is, the more thankful we will be for what we already have, and be thankful for tomorrow which is in God's hand.
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- Nevertheless, the devil and the world do not want to give thanks to God. Rather they would **lie** to us and distract us from seeing the truth. (can you name some?)
  - The truth is that God is in **full control** of both our circumstances and our destiny. (v.7-8) Although we cannot know for certain what will happen tomorrow, we can give thanks for what is about to happen.
  - As we grow in thanksgiving (embracing the truth of God), we can **see past** the lies of the world and of the devil (Col. 4:2), and truly have peace (Phil. 4:6-7).



## Conclusion—Thankfulness

- It does not matter what **temperament** or history we have, we can all **grow** in thanksgiving.
- Thanksgiving is to see God and the **whole** truth as God has revealed to us through His word.
- We can thank God for **circumstances** and what is **yet to happen**, knowing that God is in charge of both our circumstances and our destiny.



*Giving thanks **always** and for **everything** to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 5:20)*

