

With My Whole Heart

- Opening Announcements
- Opening Prayer

Q: When you hear the words "with my whole heart", what does that mean?

Q: What does the phrase "half-hearted" mean?

Q: Which is better? Why?

Table Time...

Psalm 138:1-8 "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. 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."

Q: What's interesting about verse 1?

Q: What does it mean "before the gods I sing your praise"?

Q: What sticks out to you about verse 2?

Q: What has God "exalted"?

Q: What's the testimony of verse 3?

Q: Verse 4 is a strong statement! Where else in scripture does God say this? (Hint: Romans 14:11)

Q: What does verse 5 seem to indicate about "the kings of the earth"? AND, how will THIS happen given what we see and know about "the kings of the earth"?

Q: What is great about verse 6?

Q: What is personal about verse 7?

Q: According to verse 8, what's the psalmist's confession of faith AND his final prayer?

Big Group Debrief...

NOTE: The Word "Steadfast" means: "To be firm; established, made ready, fixed"

READ: Psalm 57:7-10 "My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast! I will sing and make melody! ⁸Awake, my glory! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn! ⁹I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations. ¹⁰For your steadfast love is great to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds."

READ: Psalm 108:1 "My heart is steadfast, O God! I will sing and make melody with all my being!"

Q: According to the above psalms, what was the psalmist's "heart" (inner being) "steadfast" on?

Q: How does THAT realization lead to "whole heart"?

Q: Why is God's love, grace, mercy and forgiveness, THE main motivation in the life of the follower of Jesus?

Q: How does Jesus' example and life show or demonstrate to us God's love?

Q: How does realizing that, and "fixing" our life on that, move us, lead us, bring us to worship?

Q: How then, is HOW we express worship a result of our faith?

Q: What might we "do" when we feel cold or apathetic or distracted and we find it "hard" to "worship"? What would be a good approach to changing that?

Here: Discuss how the cross of Jesus, His love and sacrifice FOR US, can bring us to the place of humility, gratitude, thankfulness, obedience and WORSHIP!