

A Song of Gratitude

Series: Thank full
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Psalm 18:1-3 (ESV) *A psalm of David, the servant of the LORD. He sang this song to the LORD on the day the LORD rescued him from all his enemies and from Saul. He sang:*

¹ I love you, O LORD, my strength. ² The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. ³ I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.

This was David's triumphant song. His song of gratitude. He sung this song towards the end of his reign when he had been delivered from all his troubles and enjoyed a time of peace. (2 Sam 22)

Even though David had grown into a powerful warrior, he never forgot that God alone was the source of all of his victories.

David's life was not without difficulties. He had many enemies and had to fight many battles. He had to face both external and internal wars. Attacks from Israel's enemies, as well as attacks from those closest to him.

He had lived some 20 or so years as a fugitive from Saul his own King and father-in-law who sought to kill him. He had lost everything, his safety, his family and his career as the king's amour bearer and general of the army. Later in life, as the King of Israel, his own son Absalom sought to dethrone him. On top of all that he also had to deal with his own carnal weaknesses.

Yet, in the end as he looks back he writes... I called on the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and he saved me from my enemies.

Saved from all his enemies didn't always come easy and without personal challenges and moments of uncertainty. There were times that he deeply doubted that he would ever experience the victory he was now enjoying.

Not long before the Lord delivered him from King Saul David said to himself:

"Now I shall perish one day by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than that I should escape to the land of the Philistines." 1 Samuel 27:1

In the end David's faith and even more importantly, God's strength was greater than his weakness.

David understood that his successes were the product of God's goodness and mercy rather than his personal excellence.

God's goodness in his life caused him to fall deeper in love. Listen to how he starts off the Psalm.

Psalm 18:1 "I love you, Lord..."

He expressed his love for the LORD who had shown mercy to him throughout his many struggles and had rescued him.

This is not the only psalm where he talks about the goodness of God.

Psalm 103:1-5 (NLT) Let all that I am praise the LORD; with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name. ²Let all that I am praise the LORD; may I never forget the good things he does for me. ³He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases. ⁴He redeems me from death and crowns me with love and tender mercies. ⁵He fills my life with good things. My youth is renewed like the eagle's!

Psalm 103:10-14 (NLT) He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. ¹¹For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. ¹²He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west. ¹³The LORD is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him. ¹⁴For he knows how weak we are; he remembers we are only dust.

My friends and family when we understand the goodness of God and how much he did to save us from our sins we cannot help but fall deeper in love with him.

1 John 4:19 (NKJV) We love Him because He first loved us.

Titus 3:3-5 (NLT) Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other. ⁴But, when God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, ⁵he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit.

David didn't just love God, he makes clear his dependence on God.

Psalm 18:1-2 (ESV) I love you, O LORD, my strength.

Strength – (Hebrew word *Chazaq*) to make strong, to restore to strength, sustain, encourage.

David is saying, God you restore my strength when I grow weak, you make me strong, you are my sustainer and encourager.

David uses praise to show his gratitude to God. He admits that without God's enabling grace and strength, none of His accomplishments would have been possible. God was the source of his strength.

The Apostle Paul expressed something similar.

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV) I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

David doesn't stop there; it's as if while he sings to the Lord, all these images of who God is flash through his head.

Psalm 18:1-2 (ESV) I love you, O LORD, my strength. ²The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

David expresses his sincere gratitude to God for saving his life with a lot of metaphors and imagery.

In the first two verses, David also uses the personal possessive pronoun "my" nine times. In doing so he is expressing his total reliance in God.

His relationship with God provided him with the strength to keep pushing through every challenge he encounters. He is thankful that all he needs is Yahweh.

God hasn't changed. Who he was to David He is also to us!

Let's look at how David describes the character of God.

- **He is our Rock (stability)** a secure standing
When everything in our life seems to get tossed around, God remains the same. He is strong, steadfast, consistent and unmovable.

Psalm 18:31 and 46 (ESV) ³¹For who is God, but the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God? ...⁴⁶ The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be the God of my salvation.

Psalm 144:1 (LV) Bless the Lord who is my immovable Rock. He gives me strength and skill in battle.

- **He is our fortress (Safety)** a strong place you go to for shelter
- **He is our God (Sovereign)** who rules in our life and is in control
- **He is our Deliverer (Savior)** the One who makes a way of escape
- **He is our refuge (Sanctuary)** our place of rest and retreat
- **He is our shield (Protection)** the one who protects us from the enemy's weapons
- **He is the horn of our salvation (Defender)** the one who fights for us
- **He is our stronghold (Security)** the high tower within the fortress

Psalm 46:1 (GW) God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble.

Hebrews 4:16 (ESV) Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Gratitude has a song and it's a song of triumph not defeat. It's a song that focuses on God and His goodness. However, the ultimate goodness of God was expressed in giving His one and only Son for the sins of the world.

In the same way David couldn't save himself from his enemies we cannot save ourselves from the grip of sin and death. But God is good and His nature moved Him to do for us what we could not do for ourselves.

Romans 5:8 (NLT) But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

John 3:16 (NKJV) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

The death of Jesus for us is the ultimate picture of unmerited goodness.

When we place our faith in Him he becomes our strength, our rock, our fortress, our deliverer, our refuge, our shield, our defender and our strong tower who saves us from my enemies, sin and death.