

# Pursuing God's Purpose

I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I sing your praise;

<sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> On the day I called, you answered me;  
my strength of soul you increased. <sup>4</sup> All the kings of the earth shall  
give you thanks, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth,

<sup>5</sup> and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD,  
for great is the glory of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly,  
but the haughty he knows from afar. <sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> **The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;**  
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.  
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

*Psalm 138:1-8*

## MAIN IDEA:

To become the person I was meant to be I will pursue God's  
purpose with a thankful heart. I will respond to God's call  
and embrace difficulties by faith. I will trust God to fulfill  
His purpose for me.

### 1. Cultivate a thankful heart.

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.* 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

#### a. Praise changes our perspective.

*I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods  
I sing your praise;* V. 1

#### b. Remember God's faithfulness.

*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.* V. 2

### 2. Respond to God's initiative.

*We love because he first loved us.* 1 John 4:19

#### a. Call out to God.

*On the day I called, you answered me;* V. 3a

#### b. Go with God's strength.

*...my strength of soul you increased.* V. 3b

### 3. Embrace difficulties by faith.

*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.* V. 7

#### a. There is a greater purpose.

*Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's  
purpose that prevails.* Proverbs 19:21

#### b. Take heart!

*I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace.  
In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have  
overcome the world.* John 16:33

### 4. Keep hope alive!

*The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;* V. 8a

#### a. God is with us.

*...your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.* V. 8b

#### b. God never gives up.

*Do not forsake the work of your hands.* V. 8b

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