

Psalm 138:1-2

I will praise You with my whole heart; Before the gods I will sing praises to You. I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

Praise: verses 1&2

Yadah-to use (i.e. hold out) the hand; physically, to throw (a stone, an arrow) at or away; especially to revere or worship (with extended hands); intensively, to bemoan (by wringing the hands)

Sing praises:

Zamar-through the idea of striking with the fingers]; properly, to touch the strings or parts of a musical instrument, i.e. play upon it; to make music, accompanied by the voice; hence to celebrate in song and music

Whole:

Kol-the whole; hence, all, any or every (in the singular only, but often in a plural sense)

Heart:

Leb-the heart; also used (figuratively) very widely for the feelings, the will and even the intellect; likewise for the centre of anything

Worship:

Shachah-to depress, i.e. prostrate (especially reflexive, in homage to royalty or God)

Holy:

Qodesh-a sacred place or thing; rarely abstract, sanctity

Temple:

Heykal-a large public building, such as a palace or temple

Lovingkindness:

Checed-kindness; by implication (towards God) piety: rarely (by opposition) reproof, or (subject.) beauty

Truth:

'emeth-stability; (figuratively) certainty, truth, trustworthiness

Magnified:

Gadal-to twist, i.e. to be (causatively make) large (in various senses, as in body, mind, estate or honor, also in pride)

Word:

'imrah-commandment, speech, word

Above:

`al-above, over, upon, or against

Name:

Shem-through the idea of definite and conspicuous position; an appellation, as a mark or memorial of individuality; by implication honor, authority, character

Have you ever heard the saying, “A man is as good as his word?” In other words if a man’s word is not reliable the nobility of his name is of no consequence. Maybe this is what David was referring to when he said, “You have magnified Your word above Your name.” God has made his word higher, of more importance, larger than his name. See, if God’s word is no good, his name is no good.

David lifts his hands in praise, plays music and sings to the Lord for God’s kindness and truth; truth meaning stability, certainty, trustworthiness. He believed that God’s word was true, that it validated his name and was worthy of whole hearted praise.

Scripture references:

Psalm 9:1

I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works.

Psalm 111:1

Praise the LORD! I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright and in the congregation.

Psalm 119:2

Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart!

Psalm 119:10

With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!

Psalm 119:34

Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart.

Psalm 119:58

I entreated Your favor with my whole heart; Be merciful to me according to Your word.

Psalm 119:69

The proud have forged a lie against me, but I will keep Your precepts with my whole heart.

Psalm 119:145

I cry out with my whole heart; Hear me, O LORD! I will keep Your statutes.

Psalm 5:7

But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple.

Psalm 65:4

Blessed is the man You choose, and cause to approach You, that he may dwell in Your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, of Your holy temple.

Psalm 119:160

The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.

Jeremiah 15:16

Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.

John 17:17

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

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