

King's Way Church
Message for Feb. 18, 2007
Written by Roger Miller

THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR (ONLY ROOM FOR ONE AT THE TOP)
PSALM 138

Today we'll talk about how this works itself out in our lives. First, here's the disclaimer. This doesn't mean we are to live without ambition, or without any sense of direction in life. It doesn't mean that we're to wander aimlessly day to day waiting for God to blaze a trail for us. What it does mean is this: as we strive to live according to God's will, we have the *assurance* that he is working on our behalf—behind the scenes, so to speak—pulling strings and making things happen according to his plan.

Someone much more powerful than you—God himself—has a plan for your life. His plans for you can only be described as good, as he says in Jeremiah... *“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.*” (Jeremiah 29:11 NLT)

God has a great plan for you, and he is committed to making that plan become a reality. In order for him to do that, you must do your part: you must keep yourself yielded to him, so that he can continue to direct your life. David shows us three qualities we need to strive for; three qualities that comprise a *yielded* heart.

• **THANKFULNESS** (v. 1-2)



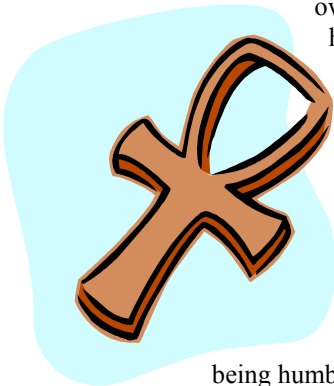
We already have so much to be thankful for; if God never did another good thing for any of us, we could spend the rest of our lives giving him thanks for what he has already done—and we still wouldn't have time enough to thank him completely.

Sometimes we just don't see the opportunities to give thanks. What does David give thanks for? In verse two, *God's unfailing love; God's faithfulness; the fact that God's promises are backed by his honor.* In verse three, *for answered prayer; for encouragement; for strength.*

A special exercise....Thank God for everything that crosses your path. Doing this helps you remember that he is the source for every good thing in your life. When our lives are defined by thankfulness, we are able to keep ourselves in a place where God can work out his plans for us. By the way, the word that is translated “thanks” in these verses is translated “praise” in some translations. This is because “praise” and “thanksgiving” are very nearly the same thing—and most certainly inseparable. Living a life of gratitude is living a life of praise.

• **HUMILITY** (v. 6)

What does it mean to be humble? Why was he humble? In other words, he didn't care who got the credit. He wasn't after his own glory. The job itself was more important to him than the accolades that came with it. Part of being humble means accepting the fact that you **won't** get all the credit you deserve—and that's ok.



*“Who builds a church to God and not to fame
Will never mark the marble with his name.”*

--Alexander Pope

If you're constantly fighting for your own glory, God can't work out his plan for your life. He can't glorify himself through you if your sole ambition is to glorify yourself. Humble people don't kid themselves about who deserves the credit for the good things that happen in their life. If you want God to work out his plan for your life, you must be yielded to him. Being yielded means being humble. A third quality we need to develop is...

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• **TRUST** (v. 7)



Having a yielded heart means that we trust God, even in the midst of trouble. Even when we feel weak. Even when we feel vulnerable. Even when we're under attack. We live with the assurance that says, "God will take care of me." When I talk about trusting God, I'm talking about putting your faith completely in him, giving him control of your life, trusting him with the results, trusting him to deal with whatever comes your way. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr. said, "The great act of faith is when a man decides he is **not** God." That's what I'm talking about. Quit trying to be the God of your life. Let go of the reins, surrender them to God. Give him control. Trust him. He will take care of you.

CONCLUSION

In order to claim this promise, we must live a life yielded to the Lordship of Christ. God can do anything, but by his own choice he will not force his plan for your life upon you. It's something you have to receive. You receive it by being yielded to him—living with an attitude of thankfulness, humility, and trust. The more your heart is yielded to him, the more you can say, with assurance...*The Lord will work out his plans for my life.*

“Our vision is to make a change in our community by being a **life-giving** church that is **true** to the Bible and **relevant** today by helping You find **Your way!**”

-King's Way Church

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