

**Pathways of Prayer**  
**Pastor Kervin Raugust**  
**Lord teach us to pray with GRATITUDE**  
**“O Give thanks unto the Lord”**  
**Psalm 118:1, 29**

**Gratitude is a distinctive mark of prayer!** This is not emotion which comes and goes. It is a mood we live in. It is a constant rooted in the constancy of God. We therefore give thanks to the Lord for He is constantly good and His love constantly endures forever!

What a wonderfully amazing reality, to know our **God’s character is marked with “goodness”**. Being good, He can and will act in alignment with His nature. He cannot be opposite to His nature. This good nature is what motivates Him to draw near to us. As a good father He delights in seeing us, being with us, listening to us, watching us and when we come to Him in prayer He delights in hearing us. All of this is motivated from the goodness of His heart. *How grateful we must be to God for His goodness causes Him to come close to us!*

**God is a good “daddy-father” who delights in giving us good gifts.** By good it is meant the kind of gifts that are best for us even though we ask for lesser things. In all of our praying we find ourselves asking God for a lot of things, some of which are not in our best interests nor are they in the best interests of those we pray for. *How thankful we must be to God who always and only gives us what is best!*

**The whole of Psalm 118 speaks of the love of God being practical, visible, knowable and enduring.** Here is what God’s love looks like:

- He is with us. We do not need be afraid, ever. (118:6)
- He listens and answers our prayers. (118:5,21)
- He sets us free. (118:5)
- He is with us as our helper. (118:7)
- He is our refuge in whom we trust. (118:8)
- His name emboldens and empowers us over our enemies. (118:10,11,12)
- He is our strength, our song and our salvation. (118:14)
- His right hand is mighty and has done great things. (118:15)
- He gives the righteous reason to shout with joy in victory. (118:15)
- He is the capstone of our salvation. (118:21-24)
- The Lord is God who makes His light shine upon us. (118:27)

The Psalmist declared at the end of the Psalm, “You are my God, and I will give you thanks; you are my God and I will exalt you.” (118:28).

**The Path Less Travelled by...**

The path less travelled by is the path of gratitude rooted in the unchanging nature of God – “His goodness and love endure forever”. No matter how we might feel, no matter what we might think, no matter what we are experiencing... nothing can stop God from expressing His goodness and love toward us. *Gratitude is an essential pathway of prayer!*