

COLLEGE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

Psalms: A Summer Sermon Series

Part 9 - "Presence, Protection, & Pleasure"

Psalms 141:1-4 | Sunday | August 17th, 2025

"O Lord, I call upon you; hasten to me!

Give ear to my voice when I call to you!"

Psalms 141:1

A Thought Provoking Question ...

Would you _____ your life in _____ on
_____ else?

"May I speak my own experience, and from that tell you the difficulty of praying to God as I ought; it is enough to make you think of or entertain strange thoughts about me. For, as for my heart, when I go to pray, I find it so reluctant to go to God, and when it is with him, so reluctant to stay with him, that many times I am forced in my prayers; first to beg God that he would take my heart, and set it on himself in Christ, and when it is there, that he would keep it there. In fact, many times I know not what to pray for, I am so blind, nor how to pray, I am so ignorant; only (blessed be grace) the Spirit helps our infirmities (Rom. 8:26)."

- John Bunyan

The Pilgrim's Progress

~ Bunyan's words helps us to ask the question "Why is prayer so difficult for us? Or, "Why don't we pray more?"

~ The simple remedy to achieving a more healthy prayer life is to just *pray*.

> What does David do in these four verses that we might look at and learn something from?

I. _____ Out to the Lord

(Psalm 141:1)

~ "*I call upon you, Lord; hasten.*" The word hasten is a verb that encourages or calls someone to move or act quickly.

II. _____ for His Presence

(Psalm 141:2)

~ In David's prayer, I see the request to be in the presence of God in the phrase "*before you*."

~ Notice David's words "*let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.*"

~ In the realm of Christianity, nine times out of ten the lifting of hands is connected to worship. But think for a moment - When someone raises their hands in a moment of attack - what are they saying? I _____!

III. _____ for the Lord's Power to _____ the Tongue

(Psalm 141:3)

~ Jesus taught about our words and their origins ... (Matt. 15:18-19) "*But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.*"

~ A prayer to guard the mouth is a prayer for wisdom = **James 3:17**

IV. Ask for the Lord to _____ & _____ Your Heart

(Psalm 141:4)

~ David invites God to do a work in his heart. Intellectually, we're thinking about the aspect of control.

~ cf. Psalm 115:3 & Proverbs 21:1 .. ""*The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will.*"

> God _____ the hearts of man.