

It has been observed by students of the Bible that the three normal, sinful, finite men who had the most distress in their lives were Job, David and Paul.

These men suffered in life at a very unusual level. They experienced more negatives than most. What is interesting about all three of these men is that they were men who spent a great deal of time talking to God. They were men of prayer. Time and time again we find them talking to God in the midst of their troubles.

All three prayed things for themselves, they prayed about others and they prayed about those who were their enemies.

Psalm 141 is a Psalm of David. It is an interesting Psalm of David. The thing that is so interesting about this is that while David was experiencing all of these negative things, he was very focused on his own spirituality. He prayed about enemies, but he never wanted to become like them.

Psalm 141 is a prayer of David. In this Psalm, David is talking to God. It is a prayer that asks God to permit him to blossom in his own spirituality and it is a prayer that prays that one be protected and delivered from all enemies.

WHEN SURROUNDED BY ENEMIES AND THREATENING SITUATIONS, A KEY TO VICTORY IS PRAYING ABOUT ONE'S OWN SPIRITUAL CONDITION AND PRAYING ABOUT THE CONDITION OF OUR ENEMIES.

People not right with God don't have a real true spirituality and when they find themselves in trouble, the last person with whom they will talk is God. They will run around trying to figure out a way to get out of the problems, but they will not spend much time with God. As a result, these people do not have a deep spirituality nor do they see God do much of anything.

Now there are four key parts to this prayer:

PART #1 – David asks God to quickly answer His prayer. **141:1-2**

Sometimes we take prayer for granted, but David never did. In **verse 1**, he calls on the LORD (Jehovah) and he asks God to “give ear to his voice when I call to You.”

Let's face it, our own speech carries a lot more punch when we say, “Please listen to me” or “Please hear me out.” There is a sense of urgency to it.

Now David asks God to “hasten” to him. What this means is he is asking God to quickly answer his prayer. In **verse 2**, he follows that up by asking God to consider his prayer to be sweet incense and not a bunch of whining and babbling.

In fact, David wanted God to view his prayer as an “evening offering.” He wanted God to view his prayer as sacred and special.

Have we ever thought about prayer like that? Have we ever been very concerned about how God views us and our prayer? David was.

PART #2 – David asks God to honestly develop his life. 141:3-5

David was totally and completely honest in his relationship with God. He wanted God to develop his life and he made three requests to God:

Request #1 - David asks God to help him with his speech. 141:3

There are many causes of lip sins:

- 1) Impulsive temperament that shoots off mouth without thinking.
- 2) Pride and Ego that desires to elevate self.
- 3) Lack of Self-Control that does not care what is said or who it hurts.
- 4) Evil Temper that lashes out and says hurtful things.
- 5) Lack of a right relationship with God, which means people don't care what they say.

To have victory over speech was something David wanted and it was also something he knew needed God's help. To get God to help him with his speech, he asked God to “set a guard over his mouth.” It is a tough thing to keep a bridle on the tongue and to do that, one needs God's help. **David did not ever want to say things rashly, inadvisably or improperly.**

When this life is over, undoubtedly the greatest number of sins that people will have committed will have been sins with their mouths. In fact, in most cases the sins of one's speech will outnumber the hair on one's head.

James said let every person be “swift to hear but slow to speak.” In order to do that we need God's help. Have you ever prayed and asked God what David did in **verse 3**? This is a critical key to one's spirituality.

Request #2 - David asks God to help him with his heart. 141:4

David knew he had a heart problem like we all do. We have a heart and a nature that is inclined to do evil. Now to keep a heart from going that direction demands God's help. There is a wickedness to our hearts that we, in and of ourselves, cannot conquer.

The assumption that David makes when he prays **verse 4** is that God can control the inclination of a heart. God can transform a heart so that its inclination is to that which is not evil, but righteous.

That is what David wanted and that is what he asked God to do. If we want a pure heart and mind, we need to ask God to give us that. If we want a heart inclined to the Word and ways of God, we need to ask God to do that in us. That is what David did.

Now we live in an evil world that is filled with evil men, who offer all kinds of evil delicacies. To walk through this evil minefield and have a heart that does not succumb, we need the work of God in our hearts and for that to happen, we need prayer.

Request #3 - David asks God to allow the righteous to rebuke him. **141:5a**

This is a critical part of being a wise person. David actually asks God to use people to convict him and reprove him. Now the kind of people that he wanted God to use were righteous, kind people.

The word “smite” (halam) means to be broken down as by a hammer that was pounding something into shape (BDB., *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 240). David was willing to be reproved and rebuked. He was willing; in fact, he wanted to be broken over his sin. But he asked God to let righteous people do it.

Dr. Harry Bultema said we live in such a decadent society that when a righteous person rebukes another, most view it as an insult rather than an anointed step of blessed development sent by God.

Fools despise reproof. But if we are to blossom in our spiritual lives, we need it. Rebuke a wise man and he will love you, but rebuke a foolish man and he will hate you.

When we go to church and hear the Word and it walks all over us, we should be grateful because that is God speaking to our hearts. As we make adjustments, we become spiritual.

Now David wanted to be rebuked but he wanted God to send a rebuke from one righteous and kind. It is important when we are rebuking someone that we not try to do it in a harsh way, but a kind way.

David asked God to bring righteous, kind people into his life who would rebuke him if he were wrong getting off track. That is honest integrity. David was not afraid to admit he was wrong when he was wrong and that is the mark of spirituality.

PART #3 – David informs God that he will continue to pray against those wicked. 141:5b-7

Now let's keep in mind what David prayed in **verse 2**. He prayed that his prayer would be viewed as sweet “incense.” Sometimes one must pray about wicked people. David is sharing truth with God.

What he says is I am not perfect and need Your help, but at times I do need to pray about wicked people and when I do, I need You to listen.

Now there are four facts that David brings out about wicked people:

Fact #1 - Wicked people have their own judges. **14:6a**

Wicked people get into high positions of power. They do not have a God-honoring, righteous agenda.

Fact #2 - Wicked leaders are thrown down by God. **14:6b**

God can topple any wicked leader. He can throw them down on the rocks.

Fact #3 - Wicked leaders hear the Word of God. **14:6c**

Wicked people hear the Word of God. They hear pleasant words, but will not be convicted by reproofing words.

Fact #4 - Wicked leaders hurt Godly people. **14:7**

Wicked people destroy godly people.

David says, God, I want you to know that I will not stop praying against these people.

PART #4 – David acknowledges to God that He is the only One who can protect him. **141:8-10**

David says, God, I look to you for help. You are my refuge and You are my defense. He asks God to never leave him defenseless, which God is capable of doing.

He asks God to keep him from traps and snares and he asks God to let the wicked fall in their own nets while he passes through life safely.

No matter what David faced in life, he did not want to do something dishonorable.