PSALM

141

CXLI

Evening Prayer

Psalms of David · Book V

"A Psalm by David."

PICTURE WORD

Incense

IN ONE SENTENCE

pray that my prayer rises like incense and that the LORD guards my lips and heart from the wicked's traps.

Remember it: One forty-one: let my prayer rise like incense, and guard my lips.

MEMORY VERSE

Let my prayer be set before you like incense; the lifting up of my hands like the evening sacrifice.

Psalm 141:2 · World English Bible

HEBREW WORD

קְטֹרֶת

"incense" · verse 2

In the Psalms: twice, in 2 psalms

קְטֹרֶת means "incense," the sweet smoke burned on the tabernacle altar each morning and evening (Exodus 30:7-8). David asks that his prayer rise like it. Revelation later pictures the prayers of the saints as incense before God's throne.

HOW THE PSALM MOVES

1–2	Prayer rising like incense and evening sacrifice
3–5	Guard my mouth and heart; let the righteous correct me
6–7	The wicked judges fall; scattered bones at Sheol's mouth
8–10	Eyes on the LORD; keep me from their traps

MY NOTES

Listen. Hear Psalm 141 sung in the **Psalm Song** app, or free at **ispress.de/psalms/141**.

Cantillated. Sung: chanted back and forth between a leader and the people.

Refuge in Trouble · The Two Ways · Crying Out in Distress

FILL IN THE BLANKS

I pray that my prayer rises like _____ and that the LORD guards my _____ and heart from the wicked's _____.

CHECK YOURSELF

1. The lifting up of hands is compared to...

- (A) the morning star
- (B) the evening sacrifice
- (C) the sound of trumpets
- (D) a burning lamp

2. What does the psalmist ask the LORD to set before his mouth?

- (A) A seal
- (B) A cup
- (C) A watch
- (D) A bridle

3. Correction from the righteous is like...

- (A) a sharp arrow
- (B) rain in summer
- (C) a heavy stone
- (D) oil on the head

TALK IT OVER

1. What dangers does David ask the LORD to guard him from, inside and out?

2. What does the incense picture suggest about how God receives our prayers?

3. How do you receive correction from a righteous friend?

IN YOUR OWN WORDS: WHAT DOES PSALM 141 TEACH?

- ☐ I listened to the song
- ☐ I can say verse 2 by heart
- ☐ I can say what it teaches
- ☐ I know the picture word

Answers Blanks: incense · lips · traps · Check yourself: 1. B (v. 2) · 2. C (v. 3) · 3. D (v. 5)