

# GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 26, 2023  
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## SERMON OUTLINE

### GOD MY DEFENDER

PSALM 141  
REV. MARK MAGANGAT

Psalm 141 unfolds as a heartfelt prayer, revealing David's deep reliance on the Lord as his defender. First, David prayed to God to hear and answer his cry. The opening cry of the psalm reflects the raw honesty of David's heart. He doesn't hold back; instead, he passionately begs God to turn His attention toward the plea being lifted from a desperate soul. David is not merely wishing for divine attention; he's earnestly asking for a response. David desperately desired that his prayers be an acceptable incense before the Lord, even in

the midst of danger (vv. 1-2).

Second, David pleads with God to keep him from evil. He asked God to set a guard over his mouth so that he would not say evil or foolish things. He also pleads for divine intervention in his speech. It's a plea for discernment, recognizing that what we allow into our hearts will inevitably shape our speech. He doesn't want to indulge in or take pleasure in the things that those who do wrong might enjoy (vv. 3-4).

Third, David recognizes his dependence on God. He lays bare his vulnerabilities. In admitting openness to rebuke, he embraced a humility that acknowledges the need for correction and growth. He also expressed a willingness to receive corrections. He sees it as a kind act, like refreshing oil poured on his head. The

psalmist is open to being corrected because his prayers are focused on opposing the actions of those who do wrong (vv. 5-7).

Finally, David prays to find safety in God. He asks not to be left defenseless. His focus is on God as his refuge and source of strength. He petitions God for protection from the traps and snares set by those who do wrong. It is a plea for divine guidance to navigate potential dangers. He prays that the evildoers will face the consequences of their own actions, while he, under God's protection, will safely pass through unharmed (vv. 8-10).

In this sermon, we will be reminded to develop a deeper prayer life in the midst of danger. ✱

## REMEMBER

KAREN MONROY

And just like that, in less than a week, we will enter the final month of the year. With all the many things that are happening in our midst, we can easily drown in this fast-paced, performance-driven world. We can easily be overwhelmed by the many things to do, requirements, and deadlines that we need to meet, not to mention the busy schedules that come with this season's festivities. In all of these, we might get too distracted and forget to see the hand of God and how He is moving in our midst.

This is the reason why, as this year comes to an end, it is important for us to pause, look back, and intentionally remember who God is and what He has done in our lives over the past couple of months. Psalm 77:11-12 reads: *"I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. I will ponder all your work and meditate on your mighty deeds."*

The psalmist starts in a place of hopelessness and desperation but later ends in a place wherein there is an outflow of praise and worship in his heart. This happened because he decided to remember

and meditate on the mighty deeds and wonders of the Lord. By remembering, there was a change in perspective and a change in heart. He was no longer in despair but was rather filled with hope and encouragement to move forward.

Indeed, there is power in remembering because it reminds us of who God is. Remembering reminds us of what He has done. Remembering reminds us of what He still can do. Remembering reminds us of His daily presence. Remembering reminds us to move forward in faith and with confidence that the same God who was with us before is the same God today and tomorrow.

May you take time to pause and intentionally remember God this week. It is my prayer that as you do so, you will not only be reminded and blessed by who God is and what He has done but also gain confidence and embrace His presence as you continue to journey in life.

### NextGen Banquet

It brings me joy and great encouragement as I remember what the Lord has done in

the lives of 170 NextGen, youth and young adults, who attended the NextGen Banquet last November 18. It was not only a time of building and strengthening relationships amongst the NextGen, but more importantly, a time to experience God's presence and be reminded of His great love and goodness. Seeing how everyone came together was a reminder of how God is at work in the lives of these young people—that it was He who brought everyone together for mutual encouragement and to be blessed. For this reason, we look forward with great joy and anticipation to the things that the Lord will do and accomplish next year in the lives of these individuals.

I encourage you to be intentional and take part in the discipleship of the NextGen. Keep us in prayer as we continue to minister to these young people and draw them closer to Christ. Let's continue to remember our NextGen in prayer. ✱

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