

*New Creation Christian Fellowship*

*Women's Bible Study*

*Psalm 91 "COVERED"*

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**DEALING WITH ENEMIES: When Someone Means to Hurt You**

**Psalm 91** is rich with promises, and breathes sweetly to the saint who is in any distress.

Week one, we studied "**Confidence**" in the Lord.

Week two, we looked at "**Snares and Traps**". Tonight let us consider verse 5.

"You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, *nor of the arrow that flies by day*".

**Introduction**

This Psalm was one that was called upon for centuries, for those going off to war. Its promises gave courage to those who had fearsome battles to fight, and strong enemies to face. At some time in your life, you too will have an enemy. Not just a spiritual invisible foe, but a flesh and blood enemy.

Some enemies are secret and subtle. They go to church with you. They are in your familiar space. They are *emotional enemies*. (Psalm 54:12ff) But given the opportunity, they will become *action enemies*. This one has ammunition and ambition to 'take you out'. This enemy means to rob you of your influence and friendships with others, out of your job, out of your classroom, out of your marriage, or...sadly, out of your life.

**Why Enemies?**

- A) **What you have.** There are those who are driven by a jealous and covetous spirit. They dislike you because you occupy a *position*, own a *possession* they wish they had. They will let their 'arrows' fly in order to eliminate you, thinking it makes more opportunity for them. **I Samuel 18:5-11. Matthew 27:17-18**
  
- B) **What you have done.** Some of us have 'earned' our enemies by our behavior. Yes...even us Christian women!

We have offended someone by our mouths, or our actions, and failed to acknowledge it and ask for pardon. We have acted proudly, and presumed 'they should just get over it'. We have injured someone, and their resentment has festered into dislike and hatred. They have crafted 'arrows' and made plans for your destruction.

**Proverbs 28:13, Proverbs 18:19**

C) **What you Stand for.** Your value system opposes their lifestyle. Your testimony convicts others of their own need for change. Act 6:8-15, 7:54-60

D) **What We Must learn.** To Teach Us to Trust God's "Covering" Power. How does the Christian woman deal with an enemy who has 'arrows' in her hand?

1. **Shut up** – Wise women refrain from publishing an evil report about their enemy. "Keep my mouth..." **Proverbs 21:23; Mark 15:1-3**

2. **Look up** – Ask for divine examination. "Is my life pleasing to God? Not by my standard, but God's". God *then* makes my enemy behave. **Proverbs 16:7**

3. **"Fess" up.** – Confess your faults (sins) to one another, that you may be healed. (**James 5:16**) It is very possible that I have CREATED this enemy by what I have done but refuse to acknowledge. It goes a long way to 'disarm' my enemy of her arrows.

4. **Get up** - Sometime it is better to leave the arena, and put your enemy into the hand of God, than to stay trying to "prove" yourself. There are some battles *you could* fight, but only the Lord can win. But you must get out of the way. **I Samuel 19:8-12** David fled to Nob, to Gath, to the Cave of Adullam, and to a long season in the Wilderness.

5. **Slow up.** – Give God time to work. In the end, he promised to make your enemy acknowledge the truth and become your footstool. **I Samuel 24:16-20**

6. **Step up** to Jesus Command. WAY up! - love, bless, do good, pray.

**Matthew 5:38-45**

7. **Put up** – A boundary that demands respect as God's child. **What might that look like?**