

# Standing Firm (Psalm 91)

*Psalm 91* reveals our two constant enemies, sin and sickness but also God's promise of deliverance.

We have all unhappily met the snare of sin and the deadly pestilence of sickness and our hearts have been chilled by the *terror of night* - gripped by fear.

But have we also experienced the victorious power of God's deliverance?

Why is it, that many Christians tend to experience the enemy's attacks impacting them more strongly than the promises of God's deliverance?

**The answer can lie in our failure to apply certain spiritual principles –**

## **We must Know our Opposition**

No enemy can be defeated until he is recognised, and his strategy understood!

*2 Corinthians 2:11 (kjv) Lest Satan should get an advantage of us, for we are not ignorant of his devices.*

**(niv)** *In order that Satan might not outwit us, for we are not unaware of his schemes.*

**Advantage** - (to outwit or to outsmart).

Greek word: '**planet.**'

Meaning - "To go around - to orbit."

**1 Peter 5:8** *Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.*

**Schemes** - (to secretly plot against).

Greek word: '**noema.**' Meaning - "To have a definite thought against. To ponder at length planning precisely someone's demise or defeat."

We must be on our guard and ready to defend and to deflect the onslaughts of our enemy by using God's armour and weaponry that is available to us: **(Ephesians 6:10-17)**

**2 Corinthians 10:4** *(esv) For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.*

**Psalms 91:13** *You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.*

**Luke 10:18-19** *He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. **19:** I have given you authority*

to **trample** on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

- To tread refers to victory gained by **patient perseverance** over a strong, stubborn, well-entrenched foe.
- To trample refers to a **swift and crushing triumph**.

In either case, **victory is assured!**

## **We must Master our Fears**

*Psalm 91:5-6*

**Fear places our circumstances between God and us.**

*Deuteronomy 7:17-18* You may say to yourselves, “These nations are stronger than we are. How can we drive them out?” <sup>18</sup>But do not be afraid of them; remember well what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt.

**21:** Do not be terrified by them, for the LORD your God, who is among you, is a great and awesome God.

It wasn't that God **would** not help them, but he **could** not.

Because of their fear they saw their enemy was stronger which mocks God's promises of power.

## **Fear has the same power as faith.**

Fear defined, is living with an anticipation that the worst will happen.

Fear and faith are both a matter of choice.

Fear places our circumstances between God and us, whereas faith places God between the circumstance and us.

## **We must Trust in the Presence of God**

*Psalm 91:1-4*

It is impossible to sustain vigorous faith without an ongoing sense and awareness of God's presence present.

*Psalm 121:1-2*

*Psalm 51:11-12*

## **Our Faith Must be Stronger than our Sight**

*Psalm 91:2 I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."*

# **We must Expect God's Provision and Protection**

*Psalm 91:9-13*

**Our expectation level can be reduced to our experience rather than God's promise of our position in Christ!**

Perhaps we expect less because in the past we have been disappointed, failing to receive the miracle we desired.

We all find ourselves walking that dark valley some time; but the promise still stands, so pick yourself up and try again!

## **We must Hold onto a Right Confession**

*Psalm 91:2 I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."*

At the right time, and in the right place, these words can change our life!

*Psalm 91:14-16*

- Confess what God has done and will do for us.
- Confess what God says about us.
- Praise Him for His promises of deliverance.