



August 23, 2011 - Psalm 56:9

Hi Everyone,

Last week I mentioned I was excited about the upcoming two verses. Both of them have solid Truth for us to establish our steps in. Last week we saw how much God cares, even when we wander off in so many directions from trusting Him. He cares enough to put our tears in a bottle and record our steps in His book! We all saw these things in verse 8 of Psalm 56. Now, let's take a look at verse 9.

In the NASB, Psalm 56:9 reads:

"Then my enemies will turn back in the day when I call; this I know, that God is for me."

I believe the heart of this verse is... when I call upon the Lord, my enemies don't seem so strong anymore. Why? Because I know that God is for me! I want us to look at several versions of how this verse is worded. There is so much to see!

"On the day I call for help, my enemies will be defeated. I know that God is on my side." (NCV)

**"Then my enemies will turn back when I call for help. By this I will know that God is for me."
(NIV)**

**"When I cry out to You, then my enemies will turn back; this I know, because God is for me."
(KJV)**

"Then my enemies will retreat when I call to you. This I know: God is on my side." (GWT)

As we read this, I know it is easy to think about the times we have called upon the Lord and our enemies still seem very real and present. And the Truth is, many times they are. Think about it:

- We call to God about sickness and we are still sick.
- We call to God about people who are against us and they still are.
- We call to God about our emotional struggles and they still pierce us.
- We call to God about our financial woes and we are still in debt.

I think you get the picture. It would be easy to read this and think we somehow got left out because our enemies are still threatening. But I believe we have to remember the theme of this whole chapter, trusting God. With that in mind, let's consider three things about verse 9.

First, sometimes we call out to God in habit or tradition but we really aren't trusting Him. This "call" in verse 9 is a loud and deep calling out to the Lord. It is the idea of placing trust in. We have to ask ourselves what the heart of our "call" really is.

Secondly, I believe we need to consider what having our enemies "turn back" or "be defeated" or "retreat" really looks like. See, we determine what threatens us. When we cry out to God in trust and get a picture of His might and presence in our lives, our perspective changes... sickness, irritating people, emotional woes, debts and other enemies don't seem so strong anymore. It is like they "retreat" or "turn back" from their closeness of threat. It doesn't mean they are no longer there, they just don't possess the up front and personal strength of might against us any longer. As we cry out to God with trust, He gives us perspective that changes the scenery of our lives, for sure.

That is the third emphasis and really the most important in verse 9. What does David say happens when he calls out to God in trust? He makes a solid and strong declaration. He says, "This I know that God is for me." His perspective changes everything. When we really know that God is on our side, nothing can harm us. In essence, knowing God is for us makes our

enemies turn back! Do you know that God is for you? Can you say that in faith and trust today?

As we memorize and meditate on Psalm 56:9, we will grasp its meaning in a deeper way. It is a verse that requires a realm of deep faith. It calls us to live out what we don't readily see. There is a good word for us here, so let's not miss it. We can trust in knowing God is for us. And when we know that, no enemy can truly hold a threat against us!



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