



“Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer; preserve my life from the fear of the enemy. ... Who wag their tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words. ... But God shall shoot at them with *His own* arrow... *then* their own tongues will turn against them... *but* the righteous shall be glad in the Lord, and shall trust in Him...”  
Psalm 64

Do you remember this childhood sing-song rhyme that was used to react to those words or “names” that were hurled at you when you were young? It may still be heard on playgrounds everywhere.

“Sticks and stones may break my bones;  
But words will never hurt me.”

The intent of this saying is primarily to deflect the hateful words that are so frequently spoken by one child to another. It is an attempt to poke back at those whose words have penetrated young, tender hearts.

Malicious words are very much like an unsheathed sword, capable of deeply wounding the heart of the hearer. The battle with words differs from a duel with swords – your opponent need not necessarily be looking you in the eye when he unleashes his poisoned words. These wounding words may come through a letter, rumor, or gossip; and they may even time travel!

“Shoot their arrows, even bitter words.” “Death and life are in the power of the tongue.”  
(Proverb 18:21)

The righteous may take comfort in knowing that our enemies words will be used in judgment against them, but this is not something we should rejoice in, but rather we should maintain our focus upon the Lord and rejoice in our relationship with Him!

“But the righteous shall be glad in the Lord, and shall trust in Him!”

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