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But God shall shoot at them with an arrow; suddenly they shall be wounded.

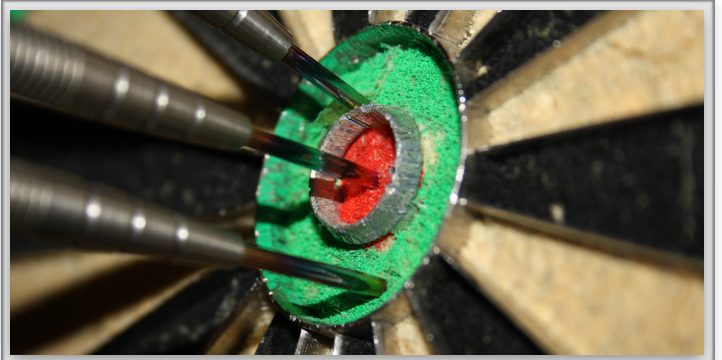
Psalms 64:7 (NKJV)

Thought for today...

He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of His hand He hid me; He made me a polished arrow; in His quiver He hid me away. Isaiah 49:2 (English Standard Version).

God desires to use us - to shoot us as His arrows - with purpose and precision, to hit His intended mark.

An arrow has to it several components, namely the **shaft** (the spine or length of the arrow), the **arrowhead** (the sharp point or tip), the **fletching** (for aerodynamic stabilisation, the three fin-shaped vanes or feathers at the back), and the **nock** (the slotted tip at the rear end that snaps onto the string and holds the arrow in position).



Arrowheads can be made of different materials, come in different shapes and sizes and serve different purposes. Many years ago, a simple sharpened stick would suffice as an arrow, with the tip hardened with fire. One of the most dangerous arrowheads you can use is a broadhead; it has a tip formed of razor-sharp blades that cut deep, penetrate and will not easily fall out of its target.

As the verse in Isaiah 49:2 indicates, God hides us - covers us in the shadow of His hand whilst He polishes us. Perhaps your polishing process involves your tip being hardened with fire! Even if so, we can be '**confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it...**' (Philippians 1:6 NKJV), and that it will result in our mouths being made like a sharp sword. **Then the LORD reached out His hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "I have put My words in your mouth..."** Jeremiah 1:9 (New International Version).

Ephesians 4:15 encourages us to speak the truth in love - not my truth or yours, but ***the*** truth. We are God's instruments. His aim is straight and true and He will not deploy His arrows in a random or haphazard fashion. His Word in our mouth is a sharp sword, able to cut deep and penetrate so as not to easily fall out of the hearts of those who hear it.

May our desire be to stay under His covering while He fashions and polishes us, so that in due season He may use us to hit the mark - the bulls-eye of the target He has chosen - and accomplish the mission on which we have been sent.



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