



# Good and Evil

## PART 2.5

### BUILD YOUR LIFE ON THE FOUNDATION OF 11 CORE BIBLICAL TRUTHS

## Overcome Evil in My Daily Life

There are many ways that we must face the reality of evil in the choices and circumstances of our daily lives. How do I enjoy God's victory when I face these different types of evil in my life?

### ***Sin***

We face evil because of our personal choice to sin.

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin."

—John 8:34

Want victory? Decide to \_\_\_\_\_.

But if we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what is right: he will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing.

—1 John 1:9 (TEV)

Repent, therefore, and return, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.

—Acts 3:19

### ***Trials***

We face evil because we live in this fallen world. And we face the painful circumstances that are an inevitable part of living in this fallen world. We can bring those trials on ourselves, but they sometimes come through no fault of our own.

God whispers to us in our pleasures,  
speaks in our conscience,  
but shouts in our pains:  
it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.<sup>1</sup>

—C. S. Lewis

Want victory? Decide to \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 5:12; Rom. 5:3–4).

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings. Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

—James 1:1–4



### Key Personal Perspective

Two reasons God allows problems in our lives:

1. To develop maturity (James 1:1–4; Rom. 5:3–4).  
God can bring ultimate good out of temporary evil (Gen. 50:20; Rom. 8:28).
2. To enable \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Cor. 1:3–7 LB).

### Temptation

We face evil because Satan tempts us to do wrong.

Want victory? Decide to \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 22:46; Luke 4:1–13).

Four truths to remember about temptation:

1. Temptation will always be a part of our lives (Luke 4:2; 1 Thess. 3:5).

Jesus was perfect, and he was tempted.

2. It is not a sin to be tempted; it's a sin to give in to the temptation.

Jesus was tempted, but he never sinned (Matt. 4:1; Heb. 4:15).

3. We all face the same temptations.

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

—Genesis 3:6

These are the ways of the world: wanting to please our sinful selves, wanting the sinful things we see, and being too proud of what we have. None of these come from the Father, but all of them come from the world.

—1 John 2:16 (NCV)

4. There is \_\_\_\_\_ a way of escape.

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

—1 Corinthians 10:13



## A Closer Look

### *An Often Asked Question*

How do you deal with a “habitual sin”—the cycle of sin, confess, sin, confess?

Change the pattern to “sin—confess—*refocus*.”

Sometimes we become our own worst enemy. The more we focus on what we’re *not* going to do, the more we’re tempted by it and drawn into doing it. If you get into a tug-of-war with Satan, you’ll lose! The solution: Drop your end of the rope and walk away. Refuse to play Satan’s game.

Here are four ways to refocus your thinking.

1. Worship.
2. Radical departure (Matt. 5:29–30).
3. Tell the truth; accountability with another person.
4. Faithfulness over time.

Don’t be discouraged if you do not feel an immediate change. Think of it as balancing a scale. As you continue to put weight on the positive side, one day the scales will tip.

## The Number 1 Principle for Overcoming Evil

### ***Take the offensive!***

- When faced with inner accusation, picture the \_\_\_\_\_.

God took away Satan’s power to accuse you of sin, and God openly displayed to the whole world Christ’s triumph at the cross where your sins were all taken away.

—Colossians 2:15 (LB)

- When faced with outer confrontation, picture yourself as \_\_\_\_\_.

The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

—2 Timothy 4:18

[He] gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age.

—Galatians 1:4

- When faced with evil, do \_\_\_\_\_.

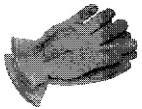
Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

—Romans 12:21

This extremely significant verse tells us how important our focus is. You'll never defeat evil by focusing on evil: Satan and demons and the evil forces of this world. Evil is defeated by focusing on what is good and living what is good.

We come through all these things triumphantly victorious, by the power of him who loved us.

—Romans 8:37 (NJB)



### Acting on the Truth

How can you overcome evil with good this week?

In one specific thought: how can you change your focus from what is evil to what is good in the way that you're thinking?

In one specific habit: how can you change a bad habit by instead committing to a good habit?

In one specific relationship: how can you begin to see what someone might have meant for evil as something that God can use for good?

In one specific problem: how can you rejoice in what God is doing in your life through a problem you're facing right now?



### Discussion Questions

1. In what ways do you see God reminding you to put your confidence in him and not in yourself? Do any examples come to mind of how your confidence in Christ has been strengthened?
2. Through which "channel" does evil seem to exert its influence on you more often: the world, the flesh, or the Devil? Why do you think that is?
3. Which of the seven pieces of armor listed in Ephesians 6 have you found to be the most effective in giving you protection from evil? How do you put on this armor in your daily life?
4. What have you found to be the most effective way for you to deal with personal temptation? Do you struggle most with overcoming pride, pleasure, or possession (the temptation to be, to do, or to have)?
5. Talk together about how you would answer the four questions about our thoughts, habits, relationships, and problems in Acting on the Truth at the end of this study. Ask your group to pray for you in one of these areas this next week.