



What God Does About Evil

Guess what! You do not have to be very old before you suffer from someone's evil actions. From age 5 to 105 we are all subject to harm from the evil actions of others.

- **So This Big Question:** What is God doing about the evil in the world and the evil done to us personally?

Three major, ongoing actions of God as He deals with evil:

#1 God brings good from evil for His people. Romans 8:28 and Gen 50:19, 20

- A MAJOR WARNING: Beware of bitterness. Heb 12:15

#2 God will bring justice on evildoers for their evil. Rom 2:5,6; Matt 16:27; Luke 18:7,8 and Ps 27:13,14

- A MAJOR CHALLENGE: Wait for God to work. Heb 10:30

#3 God empowers and uses His people to fight evil. Micah 6:8

- A MAJOR RULE: Use good to overcome evil. Rom 12:21

Here is the big idea: I am obedient, fulfilled, and really happy when...I trust God to bring good from evil and when I join Him in bringing good from evil.

Purpose of God #6: God is actively working to bring good from evil, to bring justice to evildoers, and to empower His people to fight evil.

Consider: A man named Joseph and a life lived in the wake of evil. Gen 50:19, 20.

So, based on God's responses to evil, act with courage and do what God is showing you:

“God, I will: _____”

“Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.

Big idea: I am obedient, fulfilled, and really happy when...I trust God to bring good from evil and when I join Him in bringing good from evil. **Purpose of God #6:** God is actively working to bring good from evil, to bring justice to evildoers, and to empower His people to fight evil.

- **Today:** Have you suffered some evil over which you have become embittered and therefore need to confess and ask God’s help to move beyond it? Will you address it today? Heb 12:15
- **Monday:** Do you see evil being done near you or in your network of family or friends which God is calling you to address? Will you act with courage, grace and truth to address the evil? Will you act with “good” and not with more “evil?”
- **Tuesday:** Can you describe a time when something evil happened to you through someone’s malice and where you saw God bring good from it for you?
- **Wednesday:** Some results of evil are reversible—you can do something about them. Some consequences of evil are irreversible in this life—you cannot change them. Can you think of some “reversible results” of evil in your life which you need to tackle? Can you think of some irreversible results of evil in your life to which you need to adjust?
- **Thursday:** What do you think and how do you feel about “waiting for God to work and leaving revenge to Him?” Do you think that revenge is really God’s work? Do you think that God’s timing is really right in bringing justice?
- **Friday:** What is stirred up in you when you hear, “Never overcome evil with evil but always overcome evil with good?” Does this seem rational to you? Would you know how to use good to overcome evil?
- **Saturday:** Read and reflect on Genesis 50:19, 20

God’s Confronting Questions: Will you trust Him to bring good from evil and will you join Him to fight evil?”

Key Applications:

- Habitually trust that God is bringing good from the evil that you suffer.
- Habitually adjust to the irreversible realities that result from evil done to you.
- Habitually look for the good that God brings from the evil that you suffer.
- Habitually join God in His work to fight evil in this world—always using good.
- Habitually anticipate that world where no evil will ever, ever, ever be present.

Note for Connection Groups: The full study guide for small group and personal study is available at: www.cypressbible.org and then click on “Get Connected” and the link is on that page.