

## Overcoming Evil with Good

We have all seen movies where crimes and evil acts are committed, which prompts us to root for some sort of payback. After all, it's just a movie, and we know we would never behave this way. One of the most dangerous beliefs, even among Christians, is the notion that we could never commit an evil act. This mindset reveals a troubling naivety about one's own heart and presents a real risk. God continually challenges our fleshly nature and urges us to live at a higher level through the power of the Holy Spirit. The human response is to curse those who curse us and attempt to conquer evil with even more evil. The Bible cautions us in **1 Corinthians 10:12**: *"Therefore, let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall."* The unfortunate reality is that we all harbor darkness within us. **Proverbs 20:22**: *"Do not say, 'I will repay evil'; wait for the LORD, and He will deliver you."* Jesus Christ came to conquer evil through His goodness and mercy by dying on the cross and offering us His righteousness. We have two natures: one worldly and one godly, often loving one and despising the other. **2 Corinthians 5:17**: *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."* Yet, our old nature doesn't simply vanish after we become Christians; we still often respond to evil with evil. The apostle Paul tells us in **Romans 12:17-19**: *"Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord.'"* How can we cope with the harmful actions of others? This universal experience feels more common than ever, and we often find ourselves tempted to seek revenge. Pay attention to what Paul says: *"So far as it depends on you."* Sometimes, achieving peace isn't wholly within our control. We might do everything right, yet some people may still be angry and use hurtful words. The Bible teaches us that we are not responsible for other people's reactions in these situations, and we should not claim to be at peace simply because they are upset. First, seek peace with God; He will guide us in finding peace with others. If they respond negatively, we can be grateful for doing the right thing. Deep within our hearts, it's hard to overcome evil with good. Theologians suggest that when someone harms us, we shouldn't react with anger but should instead seek to reverse the situation by countering evil with acts of goodness. It's essential to recognize that without Christ in our hearts, we lack the strength to achieve this. **Galatians 6:9** says, *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."* If we choose to hold a grudge, we do so at our own risk. The person we resent is probably unaware of it. They don't feel its impact; it only harms us. So, why not take God at His Word and, by His grace, decide to overcome evil with good from this moment on?