

Romans 12: Living the Resurrected Life

Do Not Be Overcome By Evil - Romans 12:21

Do Not Be Overcome By Evil

- “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Romans 12:21
- The word “overcome” is a translation of a Greek word that literally means, “to conquer, subdue, prevail, overcome, get the victory.” (Strong’s Concordance)
- Jesus’ death and resurrection utterly destroyed satan’s power and authority over the life of a genuine Christ follower. (Colossians 2:15, Luke 10:19)
- If this is true, why do we need instructions to not be overcome by evil? Unfortunately, many Christians have no idea of their total authority over evil through Christ.
- Many of God’s children are living like orphans and stepchildren; never understanding or reaching their potential in Christ. The deception stops now. We will take our inherited place as warriors and overcomers in Jesus’ Name.
- Without a doubt, evil is always attempting to conquer what God is trying to do in us and through us. Ephesians 6 tells us that we are constantly in a battle. The good news is that we fight from victory not towards it!
- With evil coming at us from satan and his demons, the world, and our own flesh; what does it look like to not be overcome by evil on a daily basis?
- Jesus, our example, was also continually battling against evil during His life on earth. Matthew 4:1-11 gives us a great picture of how He effectively refused to be overcome by evil.
- Let’s read Matthew 3:13-4:11 together. Spirit, please teach us and change us.

How?

1. Enter Into God’s Family

- ““This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.””Matthew 3:17
- Being adopted into God’s family by Jesus’ death and resurrection is the first step to becoming an overcomer of evil.
- We are all born as slaves to sin, helpless to the cycles and sways of evil. We have no power in ourselves to resist evil or to overcome it.
- This is why Jesus held the cup of wine before His death and said, “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.” Luke 22:20
- He has given each of us the opportunity to covenant with Him to receive forgiveness and life; and committing to a life of obedience and repentance.

- Have you counted the cost of giving up everything and surrendering your whole life to Jesus as Lord? Take time to consider it. It is the first step.

2. Be Led By The Holy Spirit

- Let's read Matthew 3:16 - 4:1 again together.
- It is impossible to live a lifestyle free of the power of evil without daily fellowship with the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:13 tells us that it is the Spirit who empowers us to be free from evil. Jesus said that the Spirit will continually remind us of satan's judgment and defeat. (John 16:8-11) And even Jesus did not go out to battle satan without first being baptized in the Spirit.
- Jesus was conceived by the Spirit but on that day of His baptism, the Holy Spirit came upon Him and "remained." (John 1:33) From that day on, He was continually fellowshiping with and being led by the Spirit.
- Have you received the baptism of the Holy Spirit that Jesus and John prophesied?(Matthew 3:11, John 1:33, Acts 1:5) Are you fellowshiping with Him and being led by Him today?

3. Know The Truths Of The Scripture

- When Jesus came face to face with evil, He was able to not be overcome because He knew and used the truths of Scripture. (Matthew 4:4,7,10)
- Notice that Jesus didn't pull out a scroll or google a scripture reference, they were in His heart because they were life and power for His daily life.
- When evil comes to conquer us, we might not always have a Bible and we shouldn't need one. Jesus didn't quote where the truth came from, He just allowed the Spirit to bring to His memory the truths He had memorized.
- The Word of God is the Sword of the Spirit and it's truths are more powerful than we tend to recognize. Do you know the Biblical rights of your inheritance in Christ? Do you need to repent for laziness and ignorance of the Bible? Are you studying and memorizing the truths of Scripture? Commit to it today.

4. Resist The Devil

- "Jesus said to him, 'Away from Me satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.' Then the devil left Him, and angels came and attended Him.'" Matthew 4:10-11
- "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." James 4:7. It doesn't get much more clear than this promise.

- Because of the work of the cross, satan is defeated and is under your authority as a Christ follower. (Luke 10:19) We are often overcome by evil simply because we are too busy, distracted, or unaware of God's promises to effectively resist the devil. He has no choice to flee when we resist him.
- Could it be that we rarely experience the ministry of God's angels because we refuse to make the devil leave? Will we repent and commit to enforce the no-trespassing decree of the cross?

5. Take The Way Out Of Temptation

- “No temptation has overtaken 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 endure it.” 1 Corinthians 10:13
- When we come face to face with evil that is seeking to conquer us; we must know that God has already made a way of escape. He has never left us alone to contend with evil. He has already been there and made a way out.
- But every confrontation with evil is a test and a choice. We have to refuse to be a spiritual sissy, have some fortitude, and actually choose the way out.
- Do we need to repent today for willingly laying down when evil approaches? Will we ask the Spirit for eyes that see the way out and the courage to take it?

Practical Tips

1. Start the morning with the Lord's Prayer, "...and lead me not into temptation, but deliver me from the evil one." This will settle your place of authority and your desire to overcome evil from the start. (Matthew 6:13)
2. Stay away from situations and places of known evil and temptation; unless God has clearly commanded you to go there to be a light. (Matthew 5:29)
3. Get an accountability/prayer partner who will ask you the tough questions about your week and truly war for you in prayer. (James 5:16)
4. Take evil thoughts captive immediately and make them obedient to Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:5)
5. Resist satan out loud when possible. Jesus didn't pray it or think it, He clearly spoke it out loud. (Matthew 4:10)