> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.
> — *1 Corinthians 13:6-7*

Book: New Testament / 1 Corinthians
Topics: evil, hope, love, protection, trust, truth

Interpretation:
In the Christian world, justice has been a hot topic throughout history. The Bible talks about love, patience, truth, and injustice in many verses, one of which is *1 Corinthians 13:6-7*.

What is justice?

Before we dive into the meaning of the verses, it is important to understand what is meant by righteousness. In a broad sense, justice is based on the idea that everyone should be treated fairly and equally, regardless of socioeconomic status, gender, race, or any other characteristic. Justice often focuses on protecting human rights, equality, and fairness in society.

While justice is an important theme in the Bible, it is also important to recognize that injustice also exists. Injustice refers to any situation in which people are treated unequally and are not given the same opportunities as others. Injustice comes in many different forms, from discrimination to abuse and exploitation.

Truth and injustice

Verse 6 implies that people should not find joy or pleasure in situations of injustice. Instead, they should seek the truth. Why is this important? Truth is fundamental in any situation where injustice exists. The truth enables us to understand what is happening and take action to solve the problems.

Moreover, the truth is often seen as a path to justice. When the truth is told, people can take action to solve problems. On the other hand, when the truth is hidden, people may not know that a problem exists. In such cases, injustice can continue with impunity.

It is important to note that the truth is not always easy to know. Finding the truth can be difficult in situations where people have hidden motives or are trying to hide information. The truth often requires time, patience, and dedication from people who want to find it.

Patience as a part of love

The Apostle Paul, the author of this letter to the Corinthians, talks about the importance of love in our lives, and patience is an essential part of love. Love is not just a feeling, but an action that is shown through patience in times of difficulty and trial.

Love bears all things

This refers to the fact that love does not lose heart in the face of difficulties. True love stands the test of time and is not tested. Patience is shown when we face difficult situations with the calm and strength needed to overcome them.

Love believes all things

In other words, love does not revel in evil or feed on mistrust or insecurity. True love believes the best in others, even when circumstances seem unfavorable.

This is the fundamental aspect of patience: trusting others and not losing hope in them. Sometimes patience requires faith, a faith in others that goes beyond what our human limitations allow us to see.

Love hopes all things

True love waits patiently, knowing that with time, things can change and improve. This patience based on hope helps us not to despair in the face of problems and to maintain a positive attitude towards everything that happens.

Hope is the most important part of patience. If we maintain hope for a better future, we will be able to endure the trials of the present with much greater strength.

Love endures all things

Love, and therefore patience, does not give up easily, but stands firm in the face of difficulties. Such a strong attitude is necessary to overcome difficult times and move forward despite any adversity.

Patience is therefore the most important component of true love and allows us to maintain harmony and peace in our relationships with others.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.”
> — *1 Corinthians 15:33*

Book: New Testament / 1 Corinthians
Topics: evil, friendship, goodness

Interpretation:
1 Corinthians 15:33 warns us of the dangers of bad company and its destructive effect on our good habits. The words we use and the people we associate with can have a significant impact on our spiritual and emotional lives.

The way we speak and the people we associate with greatly influence our behavior. If we are surrounded by people who speak negatively of others, we are more likely to behave in the same way. On the other hand, if we are surrounded by optimistic and positive people, we are more likely to maintain a healthy and positive outlook.

Bad company not only has a negative impact on our habits and behavior, but also on our faith. If we spend time with people who speak negatively of God and do not pay spiritual attention to their lives, we are more likely to backslide from our faith. In fact, the Bible encourages us to surround ourselves with those who have a positive outlook on life and seek more righteous and spiritual paths.

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> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
> — *1 John 1:9*

Book: New Testament / 1 John
Topics: evil, confession, faithfulness, purification, repentance, sin

Interpretation:
1 John 1:9 shows the importance of the act of confession in the life of a Christian. Confession is the act of acknowledging our sins and asking God to forgive us for them. According to the verse, if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. This

act of humility and repentance is fundamental to maintaining a healthy and deep relationship with God.

What does it mean to confess your sins?

Confession means to acknowledge your sins to God and ask Him for forgiveness. It is an act of humility in which we put aside our pride and arrogance to acknowledge our sinfulness. By confessing our sins, we take responsibility for our actions and accept the consequences of them.

It is important to note that confession is not just a formality or an empty ritual. It must be accompanied by true remorse and a desire to change our behavior. We cannot ask forgiveness for our sins and continue to live the same way.

God's faithfulness and justice

The verse assures us that if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. These words show us God's great mercy and love for us. Despite our shortcomings, He is willing to forgive us and give us another chance.

It is important to emphasize here that God's faithfulness and justice are not separate aspects. He is faithful to His promise to forgive our sins if we confess and repent, but He is also just in His judgment of sin. God's justice is inseparable from His love and mercy. He forgives not because we deserve it, but because He is good and faithful to His Word.

Cleansing by confession

When we confess our sins, we not only receive God's forgiveness, but also His cleansing. The verse assures us that God will cleanse us from all unrighteousness. This means that when we ask for forgiveness, our sins are erased and our conscience is cleansed.

This cleansing has a very important consequence in our daily lives. When we are cleansed from our sins, we are free to live a new and restored life. We are no longer burdened with our guilt and shame, but can look to the future with hope.

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> Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God’s slaves.

> — *1 Peter 2:16*

Book: New Testament / 1 Peter
Topics: evil, freedom, life, serving, slavery

Interpretation:
The Christian life is a life of freedom. But what exactly does it mean to be free in Christ? The Apostle *Peter* gives us the answer in *1 Peter 2:16*

Freedom as a cover for evil

In this verse, Peter tells us that some may use *freedom in Christ* as an excuse to do whatever they want. After all, if we are already saved by the grace of God, why can't we do whatever we want? But Peter warns us that this is not true freedom. True freedom sets us free from sin and the bondage of selfishness. If we use our freedom as an excuse for our actions, we fall back into the bondage of sin that Christ came to set us free from. This is not the freedom God wants for us.

Serving God as free people

Instead, Peter calls us to act as servants of God despite our freedom in Christ. This may seem contradictory, but it is actually an essential part of our freedom. If we are truly free in Christ, we are free to serve God and not ourselves. As the apostle *Paul* says in *Galatians 5:13, "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love."*

Freedom in Christ enables us to serve God with all our hearts, without worrying about our own justification or salvation. We are free to love God and to love others. Serving God does not mean seeking our own glory or honor, but rather seeking His glory and honoring Him.

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> For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.
> — *1 Peter 3:12*

Book: New Testament / 1 Peter

Topics: evil, listening, Prayer, righteousness

Interpretation:
1 Peter 3:12 is a positive reminder that God is always present and attentive to the prayers of those who strive to live righteously. The Bible teaches us that we are all sinners and make mistakes, but those who strive to live righteously and follow God's will can be confident that He will hear them.

Justice in the Bible

Justice is an important theme in the Bible, and being just means doing what is right in the eyes of God. Justice is not just following rules and taking certain actions, but having a close relationship with God and allowing His will to guide our actions. When we live justly, we can be confident that God is on our side and will always be there to support us.

God's constant presence

1 Peter 3:12 reminds us that God is always present, attentive to our prayers, and ready to hear us. This means that even in times of pain or uncertainty, we can trust in God's constant presence and look to Him for comfort and help. Furthermore, if we do what is right according to His will, God's eyes will always be upon us, giving us a sense of peace and security.

The danger of doing evil

In contrast to God's promise to be with the righteous, the verse also reminds us that those who do evil will stand before the face of the Lord. This shows us that there are consequences to our actions, and that if we live a life contrary to God's will, we can expect to face His wrath and judgment.

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> Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good?
> *— 1 Peter 3:13*

Book: New Testament / 1 Peter
Topics: evil, goodness, work

Interpretation:

The Bible is an endless source of teachings and insights that can help us live fuller, happier lives. One of the most powerful verses that teaches us about good and evil is found in *1 Peter 3:13*.

What does it mean to pursue good?

Pursuing good means living in accordance with the moral and ethical values ??taught in the Bible. This includes honesty, fairness, compassion, kindness, respect, patience, and responsibility. It also means acting with integrity, not harming others, and always seeking the well-being of our families, friends, and communities.

In a world where selfishness and greed seem to be the most common values, pursuing good can seem like a difficult task. However, we must remember that God has given us the ability to choose between good and evil, and that we can always choose the right path if we truly want to.

What does it mean that no one can harm us?

This question from the Apostle *Peter* invites us to consider the divine protection we receive when we pursue what is right. If we act justly and lovingly, we can be confident that God is with us and will protect us from the dangers and threats that may threaten us.

This does not mean that we will not face difficulties or that we will never suffer, but it does mean that we will have the strength and divine protection we need to overcome any obstacle or adversity. As we follow the path of goodness, we can be confident that we will never walk alone and that we will always have God’s help on our side.

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> Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.
> *— 1 Thessalonians 5:15*

Book: New Testament / 1 Thessalonians
Topics: evil, Blameless, righteousness

Interpretation:

One of the recurring themes in the Bible is the importance of love and kindness towards others. And this is where the message of *1 Thessalonians 5:15* is focused. Thus, we are called to avoid resentment and revenge, and instead to do good to others.

What does it mean to repay evil for evil?

Before we delve into the meaning of the verse, it is important to understand the meaning of the phrase “repaying evil for evil.” This phrase refers to the human tendency to respond to an insult or harm with something similar or worse. Instead of forgiving or seeking a peaceful solution, our instincts often lead us to take justice into our own hands, which can lead to an endless cycle of violence and hatred.

The Importance of Always Pursuing the Good

In contrast, *1 Thessalonians 5:15* calls us to always pursue the good, both with our fellow believers and with everyone else. This call to kindness does not mean that we should ignore justice or allow others to mistreat us, but rather that we should act wisely and lovingly. In many cases, forgiveness can be the best solution to avoid the resentment and bitterness that can result from paying back evil with evil.

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> But test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil.
>
> *— 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22*

Book: New Testament / 1 Thessalonians
Topics: evil, prophecy, understanding

Interpretation:
These verses *1 Thessalonians 5:21-22* are important because they show us the need to be critical of what comes to us, not to accept everything without thinking, and to separate the good from the bad. The Bible is clear about the need to distance ourselves from anything that will pull us away from good and toward evil.

But test them all

The first instruction in these verses is to test everything we hear. This means that we should not accept everything we are told without question, but rather analyze and evaluate the information before

accepting it as truth.

We must be critical and not be afraid to ask questions and seek answers. To apply this to our lives, we can start by asking ourselves: Is this information realistic? Does it line up with other credible sources? Who is the source of this information and what is their agenda?

Hold on to what is good

The second instruction in these verses is to hold fast to what is good. Once we have examined the information we have received, we must separate what is good from what is bad. We must retain and accept what is true and valuable and discard what is not.

We must develop a critical mind and be willing to change our minds if better information comes our way. To apply this in our lives, we can begin by identifying what values ??are important to us and evaluating whether the information we receive respects or violates them.

Reject every kind of evil

The third precept is a reminder that we must be careful in our decisions, both in our actions and in our relationships. If we want to live a life pleasing to God, we must be aware of our actions and how they may affect others.

It is easy to get carried away by the temptations and impulses of the moment, but if we follow the command to abstain from every kind of evil, we will be able to make more informed and responsible decisions. In addition, this teaching also asks us to reflect on our relationships. Are we surrounded by people who encourage us to do bad things or tempt us to sin? If so, we should question these friendships and rethink our lifestyle.

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> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.
> *— 1 Timothy 6:10*

Book: New Testament / 1 Timothy

Topics: evil, desires, faith, greed, idols, money

Interpretation:
The Bible verse in *1 Timothy 6:10* is an important reminder that the love of money can be the root of all evil. The desire to accumulate wealth and power can lead to greed and unethical decisions in life, which can lead to a loss of values ??and faith.

The Bible teaches us that money itself is not evil, but the love of it can become a hindrance to our relationship with God and the realization of our true happiness. It is easy to become caught up in prosperity and the accumulation of wealth in this world, but in the long run, this can bring more pain than satisfaction.

A fall from faith

When we focus on money and the accumulation of wealth, we lose sight of the purpose of our lives. We can stray from the inner values ??that are necessary to live a meaningful and successful life in our relationships with God and others. The Bible teaches us to find balance in our lives and not let the pursuit of wealth distract us from our faith.

Pain and consequences

The love of money can bring many negative consequences in our lives. Some people may fall into debt, greed and avarice, while others may succumb to the temptation of corruption and unethical behavior. These actions can have serious consequences, including legal problems, mental and emotional health issues, and loss of morality.

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> Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.
> *— 2 Timothy 2:22*

Book: New Testament / 2 Timothy
Topics: evil, desires, faith, love, righteousness, temptation

Interpretation:

The Bible gives us many commands to follow to live a full life *in Christ*, but this command especially focuses on young people and their passions. This verse calls us to flee from our youthful passions, our worldly desires, and to follow God in righteousness, faith, love, and peace.

Fleeing from youthful passions

Youthful passions are those that cause us to seek immediate gratification, to follow our selfish dreams without caring about the consequences. That is why the apostle *Paul* commands us to flee from them. Our passions can lead us down paths that do not lead us to peace and happiness, but if we turn away from them, we can find true freedom in Christ.

Following justice, faith, love, and peace

Instead of following our passions, we should focus on following God through justice, faith, love, and peace. Justice calls us to be honest and fair in all our relationships and to always strive to do what is right. Faith is trust in God and His plan for our lives, while love is love for God and our neighbors. Peace is the peace of Christ in our lives.

Calling on the Lord

In *2 Timothy 2:22* we are told to do these things with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. This means that we need to be in community with people who seek God and strive to live lives consistent with His word. Prayer and worship are essential to growing our faith and living in fellowship with God and others.

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> 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*

Book: New Testament / 2 Timothy
Topics: evil, heaven, protection, worship

Interpretation:

The Apostle Paul writes this final letter to *Timothy* as a personal letter, encouraging him to continue in the faith and stand firm in sound doctrine in the midst of apostasy and persecution. In *verse 18*, Paul concludes his letter with a statement of his faith in the Lord to keep him from every evil deed and to bring him into *the Kingdom of Heaven*.

Interpretation of the verse

In this verse, Paul expresses his confidence in God's power and protection over his life. He recognizes that faith in the Lord is the key to being set free from every evil deed and being preserved for the Kingdom of Heaven. This statement of faith is significant because Paul experienced many trials and hardships in his ministry, including imprisonment and persecution.

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> He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.
>
> *— Daniel 2:22*

Book: Old Testament / Daniel
Topics: evil, Almighty, God, Light, sin

Interpretation:
The Bible verse *Daniel 2:22* speaks of God's ability to reveal the deep and hidden in our lives. God is directly connected to everything around us, including our deepest emotions and feelings. *He is our Creator*, so He is able to reveal to us what troubles us, even when it seems hidden in the deepest mystery.

Divine wisdom

Divine wisdom is infinitely rich and always generous, helping us make wise and just decisions. His divine revelation manifests itself in various aspects of our lives, inspiring us to move forward. In this sense, we must always trust God; He is our primary guide.

Reflection and application in everyday life

Often we find ourselves in situations where we cannot understand what is happening. These are times of uncertainty and anguish. It may seem as if everything is in darkness, as if there is no solution. However, our faith in God tells us that we are not alone. He is always near, like a light that illuminates our lives and dispels the darkness.

Many cultures say that even if a door is closed, God always opens a window. This means that even if we don't see a solution, there is always a way out, a new opportunity to recover and move forward. God shows us the light, guiding us to the truth, to what brings us peace and happiness.

God has shown us His ability to reveal what is hidden in our lives. When we are in darkness, He is our light, our guide, and our protector. He is always with us, in every moment of our lives; all we need to do is trust Him.

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> Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, “I find no pleasure in them”.
> — *Ecclesiastes 12:1*

Book: Old Testament / Ecclesiastes
Topics: evil, creation, joy, life

Interpretation:
In *Ecclesiastes 12:1*, the author of Ecclesiastes calls for reflection on life and the importance of youth. It is during these years that we make the most important decisions and can lay a solid foundation for the future. This is why the author urges us to remember *the Creator* while we are young, before difficult days arrive.

The value of time and wisdom

The author of Ecclesiastes also reminds us of the importance of time and wisdom. Youth is a time when we have many opportunities and can accomplish much, but it is also a time when we can waste time and make poor decisions. This is why the author urges us to be wise and remember the Creator in our youth so that we can build a good future.

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> When the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried out, people’s hearts are filled with schemes to do wrong.
>
> — *Ecclesiastes 8:11*

Book: Old Testament / Ecclesiastes
Topics: evil, heart, judgment, punishment, sin

Interpretation:
The Book of Ecclesiastes is a poetic and philosophical work reflecting on the meaning of life and man's relationship with God. In chapter 8, verse 11, the author emphasizes the importance of justice and punishment to prevent people from committing evil deeds. This verse reminds us that if evil deeds go unpunished, people will be inclined to commit evil.

Justice in society

Justice is a fundamental value of any society that aspires to democracy and freedom. Without justice, the harmony of society will be undermined by impunity. If people do not see the consequences of their misdeeds, they themselves may be tempted to commit evil deeds, leading to a cycle of violence and impunity that undermines the social fabric.

The importance of punishment

Ecclesiastes 8:11 emphasizes the necessity of punishment to maintain justice in society. Punishment is not only a form of vengeance against the criminal but also a way to deter others from committing evil deeds. Therefore, punitive measures are necessary to respond to crimes committed and prevent their recurrence.

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> “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.
> — *Ephesians 4:26-27*

Book: New Testament / Ephesians
Topics: evil, anger, devil, sin

Interpretation:
Ephesians is the book of the church that speaks of the unity of the body of Christ and offers a theological framework for understanding the purpose and responsibility of the church. In chapter 4, *the apostle Paul* exhorts believers to live lives worthy of the calling to which they have been called.

In your anger do not sin

Anger is a natural emotion, but we must be careful not to let it turn into sin. When our anger is righteous and in line with God’s will, it is not a sin to be angry.

Remember that even *Jesus* became angry several times when he saw injustice and oppression. So it is not a sin to be angry, but we must be careful not to sin in our anger. We must not allow our anger to lead us to violence, hatred, or sin.

Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry

In other words, we must resolve our differences before the end of the day. If we allow anger to build up and fester, we may begin to think and speak negative thoughts that are not true or constructive. To prevent feelings from building up, we must resolve our differences early and not allow anger to build up and become destructive.

What does it mean to “do not give the devil a foothold”?

The devil is synonymous with the dark and negative forces that separate us from the light and God. So this is a reminder to not allow these dark and negative forces into our lives. Impurity, anger, jealousy, resentment, and bitterness are just some of the ways these dark and negative forces can manifest in us. So we must protect ourselves from them at all costs and not give them any place or control in our lives.

How do we keep the devil out of our lives?

To keep the devil out of our lives, we need to be aware of our emotions and thoughts. We can start by asking ourselves why we feel the way we feel. If we find ourselves with negative emotions, we should

stop and analyze the source of these emotions.

If we find that negative emotions arise from feelings of injustice or resentment, we should work to forgive and release these feelings. If negative emotions are caused by a mistake we made, we should correct it and work to prevent it from happening again.

It is also important to surround ourselves with positive and loving people. People often reflect the relationships and emotions they interact with. If we are surrounded by positive and loving people, we are more likely to start feeling the same. And if we are surrounded by negative and toxic people, we may drown in these negative emotions.

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> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.
>
> — *Ephesians 6:11*

Book: New Testament / Ephesians
Topics: evil, devil, equipment, idols, protection

Interpretation:
Ephesians 6:11 is Paul's call to the Christians in Ephesus to put on the whole armor of God and be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. The devil is described in the Bible as a cunning and evil enemy who seeks to destroy believers and lead them into temptation. Therefore, it is important that we are prepared to meet his attacks, and the armor of God provides us with the necessary protection to resist.

Furthermore, putting on the whole armor of God enables us to live a life of victory and spiritual strength. It helps us walk in truth, be protected from injustice, reach out to others with the message of peace, maintain faith in times of trial, have hope for salvation, and be able to fight evil with the sword of the Spirit.

How can we apply this verse to our lives?

Putting on the whole armor of God is a daily action that we must take. We must realize that the devil is always lurking, looking for an opportunity to cause us to fall. Therefore, it is important to read the Bible

regularly, meditate *on God's Word*, and pray continually to strengthen our faith and our relationship with God.

It is also important to have spiritual friends and mentors who can guide us in times of doubt or difficulty. They can help us recognize the attacks of the enemy and find protection in the full armor of God.

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> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.
> — *Ephesians 6:12*

Book: New Testament / Ephesians
Topics: evil, devil, heaven, self-control, Spirit

Interpretation:
Ephesians 6:12 is an important reminder that our struggle in this life is not only against what we can see and touch in the physical world, but that there is also a spiritual battle in which we are constantly engaged.

What does it mean that we “do not wrestle against flesh and blood”?

When we speak of *“flesh and blood”* in this context, we are talking about the purely physical, the tangible, and the visible. That is, our enemy is not people we can see with our eyes, nor are they beings we can defeat simply by physical force.

What are “principalities, powers, and rulers of the darkness of this world”?

These terms refer to evil forces that operate in the spiritual world and influence the physical world. According to the Bible, Satan and his fallen angels have some authority in this world. Principalities and powers are dominions and powers that rule over certain areas of this world, while the rulers of darkness in this world are in the same category of evil beings.

What are “the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms”?

These are fallen angels who work with Satan and operate in other dimensions, in what are called *“heavenly regions.”* These spiritual regions are not necessarily a physical place, but rather a spiritual dimension that overlaps with our physical world.

Thoughts on spiritual warfare

This verse reminds us that we should not focus on fighting with our brothers and sisters or even the society in which we live. Instead, we must realize that the real battle is spiritual, and any form of hostility we experience in our daily lives is the result of forces operating in the spiritual realm.

As we recognize the nature of our struggle, we must also understand that our weapons are not physical, but spiritual. We need to arm ourselves with the powerful spiritual tools that God has placed at our disposal: *prayer, the Word of God, and the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives*.

We must be very careful not to underestimate the reality of spiritual struggle, even in our daily lives. We often think that the things that happen to us are simply the result of physical circumstances, when in fact there is something deeper behind many of the things that happen.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.
>
> *— Ephesians 6:13*

Book: New Testament / Ephesians
Topics: evil, devil, protection, safety, temptation

Interpretation:
The armor of God is one of the most important themes in the Bible for Christians. In *Ephesians 6:13, the Apostle Paul* encourages believers to put on the whole armor of God, so that we can withstand in the evil day and stand firm, having accomplished all that has been entrusted to us.

What is the “Armor of God”?

The armor of God is a metaphor used by Paul to illustrate the protection and strength that God offers us as Christians to fight against evil forces. *Ephesians 6:11-17* details the different pieces of armor that we should take with us.

The Belt of Truth

This belt represents truth and honesty, which help us stand firm in our convictions and decisions.

The Breastplate of Justice

The breastplate of justice represents moral integrity and righteousness. As Christians, we are to live justly and do what is right, even when no one is watching.

Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

The shoes of the Gospel of Peace give us stability and help us spread the message of salvation through our actions and words.

Shield of Faith

The shield of faith represents trust in God and His word. It protects us from the fiery darts of the devil - the evil intentions and negative thoughts that the enemy uses to lead us astray.

Helmet of Salvation

The helmet of salvation protects our minds and thoughts. It reminds us that we are saved by God's grace and gives us the strength to reject negative thoughts and attitudes.

Sword of the Spirit

The sword of the Spirit represents the Word of God, which is our guide and source of strength. With the Word, we can protect our faith and withstand any spiritual attacks.

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> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up

> the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.
>
> *— Ephesians 6:14-16*

Book: New Testament / Ephesians
Topics: evil, Evangelism, faith, peace, righteousness, truth

Interpretation:
Ephesians 6:14-16 encourages us to stand firm and remain steadfast in our convictions and values. When we stand firm in our convictions, we do not allow difficult situations to derail us.

What is truth?

Truth is one of the key words in these verses. Truth is a virtue that has to do with honesty, consistency, and sincerity in all our actions. When we tell the truth, we are being honest with ourselves and with others.

Truth is a powerful tool that allows us to discern between good and evil. When we follow the truth, we live a life that is consistent with our values ??and principles.

What is the breastplate of righteousness?

In these verses, *the apostle Paul* talks about the breastplate of righteousness. The breastplate is the part of the armor that protects the torso of a soldier. This part of the armor is associated with justice.

Justice is a virtue that motivates us to do good and avoid evil. When we act justly, we make right and fair decisions in all our actions. The breastplate of righteousness is a protection against all temptations and evil influences that could lead us astray.

Zeal in preaching the Gospel of Peace

The Apostle Paul calls us to *“put on shoes”* of zeal for the preaching of the gospel of peace. What exactly does this mean? Zeal is a strong desire or passion for something, and in this case, it refers to spreading the message of salvation through *Jesus Christ*. As Christians, we should be motivated by a deep love for God and our neighbors, and we should feel a responsibility to share the gospel with those in need.

Furthermore, Paul says that the gospel is a message of peace. This refers to the reconciliation offered through *Christ*. Before we knew *Jesus*, we were at enmity with God, but through Him we can be reconciled and have peace with God. The gospel also brings peace into our lives by giving us

assurance of our salvation and the promise of eternal life.

What does the shield of faith mean?

At the time of the book of Ephesians, a shield was a key element in the protection of soldiers during battles. In the same way, faith acts as a shield that protects us from the attacks of the enemy. Moreover, the shield not only serves a protective function, but is also a weapon of war, allowing soldiers to move forward with greater confidence and confront the enemy.

In this sense, we can understand that the shield of faith is our protection from the temptations and attacks of the enemy, both in everyday situations and in times of spiritual crisis. Moreover, faith not only protects us, but also allows us to move forward in our Christian lives, confidently and boldly facing any obstacles that may arise along the way.

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> And the Lord God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.
> *— Genesis 3:22-23*

Book: Old Testament / Genesis
Topics: evil, creation, Eternal life, goodness, life, sin

Interpretation:
Genesis 3:22-23 are quite interesting verses. To understand their meaning, we must first understand the context. These verses take place after *Adam and Eve* disobeyed God and ate the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. This disobedience resulted in original sin and Adam and Eve's expulsion from the Garden of Eden.

Meaning of the verses

These verses can be interpreted in various ways, but the most common explanation is that God does not desire for humans to live forever in their fallen state. If they had eaten from the tree of life, they would have lived forever in a world full of sin and pain. The phrase *"as one of us"* is also interesting.

Some believe God is speaking to angels, but others believe it is a reference to *the Trinity* as a whole.

This passage teaches us several important lessons. First, it shows us the gravity of sin and the need to take responsibility for our actions. Secondly, it shows that work is a Divine commandment and a way to restore man’s communion with God.

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> You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.
> *— Genesis 50:20*

Book: Old Testament / Genesis
Topics: evil, God, life

Interpretation:
Genesis 50:20 is part of the life story *of Joseph*, one *of Jacob's* twelve sons in the Old Testament. Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers in his youth and spent many years in Egypt, where he was eventually elevated to a position of leadership by Pharaoh. In this verse, Joseph speaks to his brothers after the death of their father, Jacob. Joseph forgave his brothers for all they had done to him, understanding that God used their actions to achieve His purposes.

God's grace in the midst of evil

This verse is proof of God's grace and sovereignty. Although the plans of Joseph's brothers were malicious, God worked behind the scenes to correct the situation. Joseph's story shows that although we may be victims of violence and injustice, God is able to turn it all into good.

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> See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.
> — *Hebrews 3:12*

Book: New Testament / Hebrews
Topics: evil, anger, faith, heart, neighbor

Interpretation:
The book of Hebrews primarily deals with the believers' faith in *Jesus Christ*, explaining how to live out that faith, and how to live the Christian life in fellowship with God and brotherly love. Chapter 3 deals with the importance of having a strong and steadfast faith in God, despite any adversity that may arise.

A call to trust God

Hebrews 3:12 is a wake-up call for believers and a warning against falling into unbelief. The writer of Hebrews encourages us to focus on God, maintaining our trust in Him and not allowing our faith to weaken. This warns us of the importance of recognizing that our own unbelief can put us at risk of falling away from God.

The importance of maintaining a right heart

The evil, unbelieving heart mentioned in this verse is a warning against apostasy and abandonment. Unbelief can cause us to become separated from God and to break our relationship with Him. This would have devastating consequences for our Christian life and could cause us to lose the benefit of salvation.

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> Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong.
> — *Isaiah 1:16*

Book: Old Testament / Isaiah

Topics: evil, purification, sin

Interpretation:
Isaiah 1:16 is an important verse, calling us to wash ourselves and cleanse ourselves from the iniquity of our deeds. But what does this phrase actually mean? First, this verse teaches us the importance of spiritual purity and how we can achieve it through cleansing and removing our evil deeds.

Context of the verse

To fully understand the meaning of this verse, it is important to analyze the context in which it was written. *Isaiah* was a prophet who spoke to the people of Israel in God's name. The people had forgotten their connection to God and His laws and had fallen into idolatry and corruption. Isaiah called the people to repentance and return to God, and this verse is one of many pieces of advice given in this regard.

Cleanse yourself from evil deeds

In this verse, God commands the people to wash themselves and cleanse themselves from their evil deeds. This means that we must make a conscious effort to rid ourselves of our evil actions and thoughts. We must repent of our sins and ask God for forgiveness.

Lawlessness hinders our connection with God and our ability to do good. By eliminating lawlessness from our actions, we can begin to walk a more righteous and just path. Purification is a metaphor for the cleansing of the soul. It is an ongoing process that we must all follow in our daily lives.

This verse also teaches us the importance of personal responsibility for our actions. We must stop doing evil and take responsibility for our choices. To rid ourselves of lawlessness in our lives, we must not only stop doing evil but also begin doing good.

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> Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.
> *— James 1:21*

Book: New Testament / James

Topics: evil, conversion, Salvation, Word of God

Interpretation:
In this interesting verse from *James 1:21*, the apostle *James* calls us to get rid of everything that separates us from God. Getting rid of filth and malice is crucial to approaching *God's Word* with humility and a willingness to receive the implanted word that can save our souls.

What does it mean to put away all filth and all traces of malice?

In this passage, filth refers to anything that defiles our minds and bodies, such as bad thoughts, sins, and evil influences that can lead us away from God. It is important to get rid of these things and make an effort to get rid of anything that separates us from our *Creator*.

On the other hand, malice refers to anything we do to harm ourselves or others. Often, our intentions are evil and we seek our own benefit without regard for the well-being of others. We need to get rid of such behavior and strive to live in harmony with those around us.

The implanted word and the salvation of our souls

The implanted word that James speaks of is the Word of God. He calls us to receive it with meekness and be willing to let His Word take root in our hearts so that we can save our souls. It is important to be humble and open to receive the Word of God and allow Him to guide us in every aspect of our lives.

The salvation of our souls is one of the greatest concerns and responsibilities we have as Christians. The Word of God gives us the direction and the path to follow to attain salvation and live fully with Him.

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> For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.
> — *James 3:16*

Book: New Testament / James
Topics: evil, selfishness, sin

Interpretation:
The Book of James is considered an important text in Christianity. It contains a number of teachings that encourage reflection and the holistic practice of religion in everyday life. One of the most profound and meaningful verses in the book is *James 3:16*, which talks about the presence of envy and selfish in our lives and how it can affect our actions and relationships with others.

Envy and selfish

Envy and selfish are two emotions that are very present in our lives. We can feel envious of someone who has something we want, or we can feel selfish with someone who seems more successful or happier than us. But these emotions can cause us to act unconsciously and even cruelly, affecting our relationships and our own happiness.

In *James 3:16*, we are warned of the danger of allowing envy and selfish to dominate our lives. Having these emotions can lead to frustration and evil deeds. Therefore, we must make an effort to recognize these emotions in ourselves and learn to control them so that we can live in peace and harmony.

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> The Lord said to Satan, “Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.” Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.
> *— Job 1:12*

Book: Old Testament / Job
Topics: evil, Almighty, devil, protection

Interpretation:
The Book of Job is renowned for its themes of justice and suffering. *Job*, a righteous and God-fearing man, loses everything he had, including his family, property, and even his health.

Satan tests Job, inciting God to withdraw his blessings. In *Job 1:12*, Satan is given permission to test Job, but he obeys God's command not to touch his life.

God is in control

Job 1:12 speaks of God's sovereignty. Even though Satan tried to harm Job, God allowed this trial. However, it's important to note that the trial was under God's control, and Satan was limited.

Satan could not touch Job's life, demonstrate his power over God, or take away the Lord's blessings. Why did God allow this trial? Job was able to come to know God better during his suffering, and that's exactly what happened.

Application to our lives

Moments of trial and pain are not uncommon in our lives. In such moments, it's important to remember that God is in control and will never leave us or forsake us. God knows what He's doing, and though we may not understand His ways, we can always trust in His love and goodness.

If we trust God and continue to move forward without losing faith, we will likely become stronger and be transformed. We can also witness God's love and power in the midst of suffering.

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> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
> *— John 1:5*

Book: New Testament / John
Topics: evil, Light, overcoming

Interpretation:
The Gospel of John, written by the *Apostle John*, is one of the four canonical Gospels of the *New Testament*. The author presents the word of God sent to humanity through the incarnation of *Jesus*. In fact, John begins his Gospel by stating that *Jesus is the word of God*.

John 1:5 presents one of the most important teachings of Christianity. In this verse, the author compares the light to Jesus and the darkness to the world. The message is clear: although the darkness tries to extinguish the light, the light always shines in them and will not be defeated by them.

Meaning of the Verse

In this verse, the Apostle John speaks of good and evil. The light represents the good that Jesus embodies, and the darkness represents evil and the lack of knowledge of God. Light is a common

figure in the Bible, symbolizing truth, life, salvation, and goodness. The *Apostle Paul* wrote in his letter to the Ephesians: *“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8)*.

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> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.
> — *John 15:3*

Book: New Testament / John
Topics: evil, purification, speaking, Word of God

Interpretation:
When *Jesus* says that we are already cleansed by His word in *John 15:3*, He is telling us about the importance of spiritual cleansing. To be clean means to be free from sin, fear, emotional discomfort, and anything that can separate us from God. Jesus’ word is pure and powerful, and by listening to it and following it, we can cleanse our souls and draw closer to God.

This verse is a promise and a guarantee that if we follow the word of Jesus, we can achieve the cleansing we need in our lives. Cleansing is not only something God wants for us, it is something we need. When our souls are clean and at peace with God, our spiritual and emotional lives are greatly improved.

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> My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.
> — *John 17:15*

Book: New Testament / John
Topics: evil, devil, idols, Mediator, safety, world

Interpretation:
John 17 is known as the Farewell Prayer, and in *verse 15 Jesus* asks *His Father* to keep His followers safe. This prayer shows Jesus' concern for His disciples and His desire to protect them from the dangers of the world.

What does it mean to "take them out of the world"?

In this verse, Jesus is not asking for the believers to be physically removed from the world. In fact, He wants them to live in the world, but not to be of the world. This is a crucial distinction.

Believers must be willing to live in the world and preach the gospel despite the dangers and difficulties. Jesus knew that His followers would face temptation and persecution, but He prays that they would remain faithful no matter what.

What does it mean to "protect them from the evil one"?

The evil that Jesus is speaking of here is not only sin, but also the snares and wiles of the devil that seek to turn believers away from faith in Christ. So Jesus asks the Father to protect them and keep them spiritually strong so that they can fight temptations and remain firm in their faith.

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> When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.
> *— Jonah 3:10*

Book: Old Testament / Jonah
Topics: evil, conversion, Forgiveness, grace, repentance, sin

Interpretation:
The message God commanded *Jonah* to deliver to the city of *Nineveh* was simple: the Ninevites must repent of their evil actions or face destruction. Although the people of Nineveh were known for their wickedness, they accepted Jonah's message and sincerely repented. When God saw the sincerity of their repentance, He repented of the evil He had declared they would do and chose not to destroy the city.

This verse has sparked much debate about God's repentance. Can God repent of His decisions? Is God fallible? However, the word *"repentance"* in this context does not imply a change in God's mind, but rather a change in His relationship with humanity. God is convinced of the sincerity of the Ninevites' repentance and changes His attitude toward them. This change in behavior *is an expression of God's mercy and grace*.

Jonah 3:10 also shows us the importance of repentance and conversion. The Ninevites not only repented of their evil deeds, but they also turned from their evil ways. This is a reminder to all of us that repentance must not only be a change in attitude, but also a change in our way of life. We must leave our evil deeds and follow the right and just path.

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> Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.
>
> *— Luke 6:22*

Book: New Testament / Luke
Topics: evil, blessing, Jesus, persecution

Interpretation:
Luke 6:22 is part *of Jesus'* famous "Sermon on the Mount," where He teaches His disciples and the people how they should live. In this verse, Jesus talks about the persecution and suffering that people will face for following His teachings.

What does it mean to be blessed?

The word "blessed" means to be happy or to have great joy. In this case, Jesus is saying that even if we are persecuted and rejected for His sake, we can find happiness and joy in that situation.

Why does Jesus say that we will be persecuted?

Jesus knew that His message would not be accepted by everyone. In fact, He knew that many would hate Him for it. But He taught the truth and gave His life for it anyway. As we follow Jesus and live His teachings, we may face opposition and persecution from those who disagree with us.

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> He went on: “What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”
> — *Mark 7:20-23*

Book: New Testament / Mark
Topics: evil, anger, pride, purification, sin, temptation

Interpretation:
Mark 7:20-23 teaches us the importance of our thoughts and actions. These verses teach us that evil deeds do not come from outside ourselves, but originate in our hearts and minds. The Bible tells us that the heart is deceitful by nature and often leads us astray. Therefore, it is important to guard and protect our hearts so that we do not give in to evil thoughts and desires.

The nature of sin

In today’s culture, there is a tendency to blame a person’s bad actions on society, upbringing, or external factors. However, these verses remind us that negative actions actually originate within ourselves and our thoughts. This means that we are fully responsible for our actions, and we should strive to think positive and constructive thoughts.

These verses also talk about actions that can be caused by an evil heart. Adultery, fornication, murder, and other evil actions are mentioned. This shows us that if we do not guard our minds and hearts, we can fall into dark paths that lead us away from truth and goodness.

Transformation of the heart

But even if we are destined to sin, that does not mean we have to remain that way. *Jesus* came and died on the cross so that we could be forgiven of our sins and transformed into new creatures. He gives us the opportunity to have a new heart, pure and unstained by sin. This transformation of the heart is an ongoing process that requires our active participation.

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> Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.
> — *Matthew 5:11*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: evil, blessing, gossip, lying, persecution

Interpretation:
One of the most famous passages from the Sermon on the Mount is *Matthew 5:11*, where *Jesus* gives the famous Beatitudes. In this verse, we find one of these “beatitudes,” although it is not usually as popular or remembered as the others. At first glance, this statement may seem a little strange. How can it be a blessing to be persecuted or reviled?

Persecuted for Jesus’ sake

The key to this verse is the phrase *“for my sake.”* Jesus is not talking about any kind of persecution or abuse; He is talking specifically about the persecution that comes as a result of following Him. That is, if we are persecuted or reviled for *our faith in Jesus*, then we can consider ourselves *“blessed.”* This may seem confusing or even scary, but there is a reason Jesus encourages us to view this situation as a blessing.

The value of persecution

Jesus tells us that we will be blessed when we are persecuted and reviled for His sake, but why is that a good thing? The reality is that persecution, although painful and difficult, has tremendous value in our lives as followers of Jesus.

When we are persecuted for our faith, it causes us to depend on God even more deeply and trust Him. It gives us the opportunity to demonstrate our loyalty to Jesus, even in difficult circumstances.

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> All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.
>
> — *Matthew 5:37*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: evil, reliability, speaking

Interpretation:
Matthew 5:37 gives us a great lesson about the importance of being honest in our words and actions. In this commandment, *Jesus* teaches us that our words must be sincere and that we must keep our promises without excuses or delays. In other words, we must be people of our word so that we do not fall into bad behavior.

In a world where image and appearance are often valued more than substance, it is important to think about how our actions and words can shape our lives and the lives of others. We are often inclined to say what we think the other person wants to hear or promise to do something we do not actually intend to do. This not only deceives others, but also ourselves and can lead to a loss of respect and trust.

In this sense, it is important to remember that one word spoken incorrectly can cause great damage. For example, imagine promising someone that you will help them with an important project, but ultimately failing to do so. Failure to keep your promise may result in the loss of important time and resources, which may have negative consequences for his professional and personal life. On the other hand, if you were honest and did not promise something you do not intend to keep, the other party may seek other support, someone who is genuinely interested and willing to help.

Thus, the verse in *Matthew 5:37* encourages us to think about honesty and sincerity in our interpersonal relationships. It also reminds us that our words can be powerful, both for good and for evil. Therefore, it is important that we are careful about what we say and that we are consistent in our actions, promises, and commitments.

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> And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

> — *Matthew 6:13*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: evil, addiction, desires, Prayer, protection, temptation

Interpretation:
Matthew 6:13 is the last phrase of the prayer known as *the Lord's Prayer*. It is one of the most popular verses in the Bible and is used as a powerful prayer tool. This verse focuses on asking God to free us from evil and not allow us to fall into temptation.

In this passage, the word *"temptation"* can be understood as a test or challenge that can change our loyalty and obedience to God. This verse reminds us that as humans, we are subject to falling and succumbing to the temptations of the world, but we can seek divine power to free us from evil.

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> Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs.
> — *Proverbs 10:12*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: evil, anger, love

Interpretation:
The Book of Proverbs is a collection of wisdom applicable to everyday life. It is a valuable book for those who seek to learn from the experiences of the ancient sages and apply their teachings to their own lives.

Hatred breeds strife

Hatred is a negative emotion that occurs when we feel disgust toward another person. This feeling can provoke aggressive and violent reactions that lead to conflicts and quarrels. In *Proverbs 10:12*, we are taught that hatred stirs up strife. This means that when we hate someone, we form a negative attitude that will sooner or later lead to confrontation and disagreement.

Love covers all flaws

Love is a powerful force that allows us to overcome obstacles and forgive shortcomings. When we love someone, we are able to overlook their mistakes and see the best in them. In *Proverbs 10:12*, we are taught that love covers all sins. This means that when we love someone, we are able to forgive their shortcomings and move on without holding on to resentment or bitterness.

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> Deceit is in the hearts of those who plot evil, but those who promote peace have joy.
>
> — *Proverbs 12:20*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: evil, joy, peace

Interpretation:
Proverbs 12:20 is a verse that speaks of the duality that exists in the hearts of people. On the one hand, those who devise evil have deceit in their hearts. On the other hand, those who counsel good have joy in their hearts.

Deceit in the hearts of those who devise evil

This verse tells us that there are people who use lies and deceit to commit evil deeds. Often, these people try to justify their evil actions by claiming that they have good intentions. But in reality, their hearts are full of deceit and lies.

Deceit is often used as a way to control and take advantage of others. People who devise evil seek their own gain rather than the well-being of others. These people often commit crimes and terrible acts without remorse or compassion for their victims.

Joy in the hearts of those who counsele good

On the other hand, this verse also suggests that there are people who experience joy in advising others to do good. The hearts of these people are full of love, empathy, and compassion. They care about the well-being of others, not their own gain.

Giving good advice is one of the most effective ways to influence others. By advising and guiding others, we can help them make decisions that lead to happiness and prosperity. We can also serve as models of virtuous and ethical behavior.

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> Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.
> — *Proverbs 3:7-8*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: evil, awe, blessing, body, health

Interpretation:
The book of Proverbs is full of wisdom and practical advice that can help us live more fulfilling and happy lives. *Proverbs 3:7-8* reminds us of the importance of not relying on our own wisdom, but to fear the Lord and turn away from evil.

Don’t trust your own intelligence

The society we live in often encourages us to rely on our own intelligence and ability to solve problems. However, the Bible shows us that this is a mistake. Our wisdom is limited and can often lead us astray. In order to live a fulfilling and happy life, it is important to trust God in all aspects of our lives.

Fear of the Lord

Fear of the Lord is something we should have in our daily lives. This does not mean that we should be afraid of God, but rather that we should have great respect and deep love for Him. Knowing that God is the Creator of the universe and that He governs all things helps us maintain a humble and open attitude toward Him.

Turn from evil

These verses tell us to turn away from evil. We are often tempted to do things that we know are wrong and to break God's commandments. However, by turning away from evil, we show that we trust God

and are willing to obey His word.

Brings health to the body and strengthens bones

These verses indicate that obedience to God and righteous living have beneficial effects that affect not only the soul but also the body.

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> Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.
> — *Proverbs 4:27*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: evil, following, righteousness, self-control

Interpretation:
The book of Proverbs is rich in practical wisdom and timeless advice that helps believers live righteous and just lives. In verse 27 of chapter 4, we are called to turn not to the right hand or to the left, but to keep our feet from evil.

Do not wander

The first part of the verse is a warning not to wander in life. It is a call to focus on our path and not to be distracted by extraneous things. When we stray from the path, we can end up in a place we do not want to be, where we are farther from God.

Stay on the right path

The second part of the verse speaks of the need to stay on the right path. This means that we must make a conscious and deliberate decision to turn away from evil and toward goodness and truth.

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> To fear the Lord is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.
> — *Proverbs 8:13*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: evil, awe, lying, pride

Interpretation:
The Book of Proverbs is one of the most important books in the Bible, containing various pieces of advice and teachings to guide believers in the path of wisdom and goodness. One of the most famous verses in the book is *chapter 8, verse 13*, which talks about the fear of the Lord and His connection with evil.

What is the fear of the Lord?

To understand this verse, it is important to understand what is meant by the fear of the Lord. It does not mean the literal fear of God, but rather respect, reverence, and recognition of divine superiority. The fear of the Lord involves understanding that God is the creator and judge of mankind, and therefore it is our duty to keep His commandments and always seek His will.

Abomination of evil: a divine requirement

Proverbs 8:13 makes it clear that the fear of the Lord should cause us to hate evil in all its forms. God is a God of justice and love, and therefore He cannot tolerate evil and injustice.

From the Old Testament to the present day, people have made mistakes and sins that have separated us from God, and that is why we need to reject anything that separates us from His will.

Pride, arrogance, evil way, and perverse lips

Proverbs 8:13 lists some of the ways evil manifests itself in people. Pride and arrogance are attitudes that reflect a lack of humility and an over-inflated sense of self that can lead to injustice and oppression toward others.

Evil way refers to any action that is contrary to divine commandments, and perverse lips refer to actions of speech that indicate a heart full of evil, such as lying, deceit, and slander.

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> Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me.
> — *Psalm 119:133*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: evil, devil, following, sin

Interpretation:
Psalm 119:133 is a verse that reminds us of the importance of following *God's Word* and how it can help us stay away from evil.

Meaning of the verse

"Direct my footsteps according to your word" means asking God for guidance in our lives. When we follow God's Word, we are following the divine teachings given to us through the Bible. This means that we must follow His commands, His promises, and His teachings to walk in the right path.

In other words, it means taking a leap of faith and trusting God to guide us in the right direction. We must learn to trust Him and let Him show us the way rather than trying to find our own solutions.

Avoiding evil

The second part of the verse, *"let no sin rule over me,"* is equally important. When we follow God's ways, we are better prepared to resist and avoid evil. Evil can come in many forms: negative thoughts or dishonest actions.

God's Word can help us hold fast to our values ??by avoiding unhealthy attitudes and destructive thoughts. God's Word reminds us that love, compassion, and mercy are important values ??in life.

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> The Lord will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.
> — *Psalm 121:7-8*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms

Topics: evil, hope, life

Interpretation:
The Psalms are a poetic and spiritual book of the Bible that inspires believers to always trust in God. *Psalm 121*, in particular, speaks of God's protection and care for His people.

God is the guardian of our souls

Psalm 120:7-8 are Bible verses that remind us that God is the guardian of our souls and protects us from any evil we may encounter. This is comfort for those who feel insecure or fearful of what might happen to them. These verses encourage us to believe in God and trust Him completely.

What does it mean, "the Lord will watch over your coming and going"?

When reading these verses, it's important to understand the context of the preceding verses. The psalmist speaks of trusting God as our helper and protector at all times. That's why in *Psalm 121:7-8*, the psalmist declares that the Lord will guard us at every step. This applies to our life's adventures, our daily activities, and our travels. The promise is that God will guide and protect us always, everywhere, and under any circumstances.

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> Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies.
> *— Psalm 34:13*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: evil, gossip, lying, speaking, truth

Interpretation:
Psalm 34:13 calls for purity of speech—a recurring theme in the Bible, highlighting the importance of controlling our words and ensuring that what we say is always truthful, righteous, and edifying.

Why is it important to care for the tongue?

The tongue is a powerful tool that can be used for both good and evil. With our words, we can bless, comfort, encourage, and teach others, but we can also hurt, slander, and defame. *Proverbs 18:21* reminds us that "the tongue has the power of life and death," and *James 3:5-6* compares the tongue to

a fire capable of kindling a raging flame.

Furthermore, our words reveal what is in our hearts. *Jesus* said in *Matthew 12:34*, "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." Therefore, if we want to live a righteous life that is pleasing to God, we need to control our words and always speak to the glory of God.

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> Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.
> *— Psalm 34:14*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: evil, goodness, idols, peace

Interpretation:
Psalm 34:14 teaches us a valuable lesson about how to live. This verse encourages us to avoid evil and instead do good. We are also commanded to seek and pursue peace. This is an important biblical instruction that can help us become better people and please God.

Turn from evil and do good

Some wonder what is meant by the word "evil." Evil can be anything that displeases God, such as lying, stealing, malice, revenge, and hatred. By following this path, we distance ourselves from God and the peace found in Him. Therefore, it is important to turn away from evil and instead pursue good in every situation in life.

Seek peace and pursue it

The second part of the verse tells us that we should seek and pursue peace. Peace is a term that denotes tranquility, harmony, and inner happiness. Pursuing peace means acting in ways that bring these qualities into our lives and pursuing them when we find them. Life will always have difficulties and problems, but those who seek peace approach them calmly and thoughtfully.

By following the advice in this verse, we can improve our lives and our relationship with God. By engaging in right actions and thoughts, we can live a more meaningful and fulfilling life. A positive attitude toward others and a desire for peace can also have a positive impact on those with whom we interact.

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> But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to blot out their name from the earth.
>
> *— Psalm 34:16*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: evil, sin

Interpretation:
The Book of Psalms is one of the most important books of the Bible, containing numerous songs and prayers that reveal humanity's thoughts and feelings toward God. *Psalm 34:16* emphasizes God's wrath toward those who do evil and how He can erase their memory from the earth.

The wrath of the Lord

Divine wrath is one of the most complex and difficult aspects of the Bible to understand. Fundamentally, God's wrath is an expression of His justice and holiness. When God sees evil in the world, His justice moves Him to punish those who do evil.

This wrath is a natural consequence of His love and divine justice. We humans find it difficult to understand how a loving God can also be a God of wrath. However, it is important to remember that God's wrath is always just and consistent with His will for the world.

Eliminating the memory of evil

The second part of *Psalm 34:16* states that the memory of those who do evil from the earth will be erased. This verse is a powerful and compelling statement, emphasizing the importance of righteous actions and the unacceptability of sin.

If a person lives in evil, rejecting truth and justice, their memory can be erased from the face of the earth. This may seem like a harsh sentence, but it is the reality presented in the Bible. Memory erasure can be understood as a sentence of oblivion. God ceases to remember those who do evil, and their memory fades over time.

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from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Let those who love the Lord hate evil, for he guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
> *— Psalm 97:10*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: evil, faithfulness, freedom, Redeemer, reliability

Interpretation:
Psalm 97 is one of the most profound psalms in Scripture, teaching believers to always trust in God. This psalm is attributed *to King David*, who ruled Israel for 40 years and was known for his courage and devotion to God. The first nine verses of Psalm 97 describe the glory of God and His sovereignty over all creation. Then, in verse 10, we are given clear instruction for God's followers.

In this verse, the word *"Lord"* refers to *God the Father*, Almighty God, and the Guardian of His saints. The word "saints" refers to those who have been set apart for God and live by His commandments and principles. This clear instruction calls us to hate all evil, that is, to reject everything that contradicts God's principles.

How can this verse help us in our lives?

Psalm 97:10 calls us to hate evil and find safety in God's protection and love. This teaching is crucial for believers, as we live in a world full of evil, injustice, and violence. However, by hating evil, we can live righteous lives pleasing to God and find peace and tranquility in any circumstance.

Furthermore, this verse reminds us that God is faithful in protecting His saints. This means that those who trust in God and place their faith in Him are protected from the dangers and harm caused by the wicked. This promise is a source of great comfort for believers, as it assures us that God is always on our side.

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> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
> — *Romans 12:21*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: evil, goodness, idols, overcoming

Interpretation:
The Bible verse *Romans 12:21* encourages us not to be overcome by evil, but to overcome it with good. In the society we live in today, evil seems to be constantly increasing.

There are a significant number of people who have negative attitudes towards others. This can lead to hatred, discrimination, crime, violence, and other negative things.

Fighting evil

This verse warns us that evil will always be present in our lives and encourages us to find ways to resist and overcome these daily temptations. One of the main keys to defeating evil is to resist the temptation to give in to evil.

Temptation is a powerful force, but it does not have to control our actions. By embracing virtue, *love, honesty, and humility*, we can overcome evil and achieve inner peace.

In this sense, *Romans 12:21* also teaches us the importance of not giving in to revenge. When someone treats us unfairly or says something that hurts us, our first reaction is usually to hurt them back. But this only increases the evil in the world and does not lead us to victory.

Instead, *Romans 12:21* encourages us to show love and kindness to those who have hurt us, and to learn to forgive and let go of offenses. Evil always seeks revenge, but we should seek reconciliation and peace.

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> Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.
> — *Romans 12:9*

Book: New Testament / Romans

Topics: evil, goodness, love

Interpretation:
Love is one of the central themes of the Bible, and *Romans 12:9* is one of the clearest and most concise verses when it comes to defining true love. In this passage, *Paul* calls for living a genuine love, without feigning feelings or emotions, and rejecting anything that is contrary to Christian values.

Love without pretense

When we talk about love, we are often tempted to fake feelings or emotions in order to please others or even ourselves. However, true love cannot be based on lies or hypocrisy. Instead, it must be sincere and genuine, with the goal of bringing good to others.

This is reflected in the fact that in the original Greek, the word for *"pretense"* is *"anypokritos,"* which means *"without hypocrisy."* In other words, love cannot be faked or hidden, but must be sincere and transparent.

Abhor evil

If we are to live a genuine love, we must also be able to hate evil. This means that we must be willing to reject behavior, actions, or attitudes that are contrary to Christian values.

In this sense, the Apostle Paul makes a clear distinction between good and evil. And to live a life of genuine love, we cannot simply accept everything we see or hear, but must be critical of our surroundings and consciously choose what is right and what is wrong.

Following the good

Finally, *Romans 12:9* calls us to pursue what is good. Having hated evil, we must be able to seek and pursue everything that is just, honest, and virtuous.

This is especially important in a world where we are often bombarded with negative and destructive messages. But if we are to live a life of genuine love, we must be able to identify and pursue what is good, rejecting everything that does not edify us.

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> I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.
> — *Romans 16:17*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: evil, Church, community, Holiness

Interpretation:
In *Romans 16:17, the Apostle Paul* calls the believers in Rome to beware of those who cause divisions and hinder the doctrines they have learned. The significance of this call is not limited to the believers in first-century Rome, but applies to all Christians in the world at all times. Unity of faith is an important theme in the Bible, and this verse highlights its importance.

Why is unity of faith important?

Unity of faith is important because it strengthens the Christian community and ensures doctrinal stability. Christians must be united in their faith so that they can strengthen one another, build up the church, and be effective witnesses *of Jesus Christ* to the world.

When Christians are divided, the church loses its power and its witness is weakened. Furthermore, when some church members challenge established doctrine, it can cause confusion and distrust among other believers, leading to disunity and alienation from the church.

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> Do not be like your ancestors, to whom the earlier prophets proclaimed: This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Turn from your evil ways and your evil practices.’ But they would not listen or pay attention to me, declares the Lord.
> — *Zechariah 1:4*

Book: Old Testament / Zechariah
Topics: evil, conversion, listening

Interpretation:
Zechariah 1:4 is a verse that calls us to reflection and introspection. The prophet *Zechariah*, one of the prophets who returned from the Babylonian captivity, reminds us of the importance of learning from history and not repeating the mistakes of our ancestors. This passage refers to the call of the early prophets, who tried to persuade people to abandon their evil ways and wicked deeds. However, they ignored the warnings and continued down the wrong path.

Prophets and religious leaders

This verse teaches us the importance of heeding the advice of prophets and religious leaders, as they guide us on the true path. It also calls us to reflect on our actions and determine whether we are on the right path or whether we need to make changes in our lives.

In a world where there seems to be so much corruption, injustice, and evil, this passage is especially relevant. It challenges us to rethink our actions and consider whether we are contributing to the well-being of society or, on the contrary, exacerbating suffering and despair.

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> This is what the Lord Almighty said: ‘Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.’
> *— Zechariah 7:9-10*

Book: Old Testament / Zechariah
Topics: evil, compassion, gentleness, neighbor, righteousness, widows

Interpretation:
In *Zechariah 7:9-10*, we find a clear and compelling command. These verses call us to consider the importance of treating our neighbors fairly and kindly, regardless of their social status or background.

Judge by truth

Zechariah 7:9-10 begins directly with the divine command to be just. "Judge by truth" indicates that we must be fair and truthful in our decisions and judgments.

Truth plays a vital role in our lives, and it is important to always seek it in everything we do. It's easy to succumb to the temptation to bend the truth to suit our needs or desires, but truth must not be falsified. We must always seek the truth and make fair judgments.

Show mercy and compassion to one another

The verses continue with a call to be merciful and compassionate to our brothers and sisters. Here, the word "brother" refers to all people in general. We should be merciful to everyone, not just our closest ones.

Compassion and mercy are closely linked to love and empathy and are essential for a thriving society. We must be able to put ourselves in others' shoes and treat them with love and compassion.

What does it mean to oppress?

To better understand this commandment, it's important to understand the meaning of the word "oppress." According to the dictionary, oppress means "to unjustly subjugate, seriously disturb, cause distress, or upset." In other words, oppressing someone involves the unjust use of force and power over them, causing harm and suffering.

The importance of protecting the most vulnerable

Zechariah's commandment reminds us of the need to protect the most vulnerable members of our society: widows, orphans, foreigners, and the poor. These people often suffer the most from injustice and violence at the hands of those in power. Our duty as Christians is to care for them and ensure their rights are respected.

Furthermore, Zechariah doesn't limit himself to mentioning these specific groups of people; he also calls us not to entertain evil thoughts against our brothers and sisters. This means that we should not judge others or treat them poorly because of prejudice or malicious ideas.

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