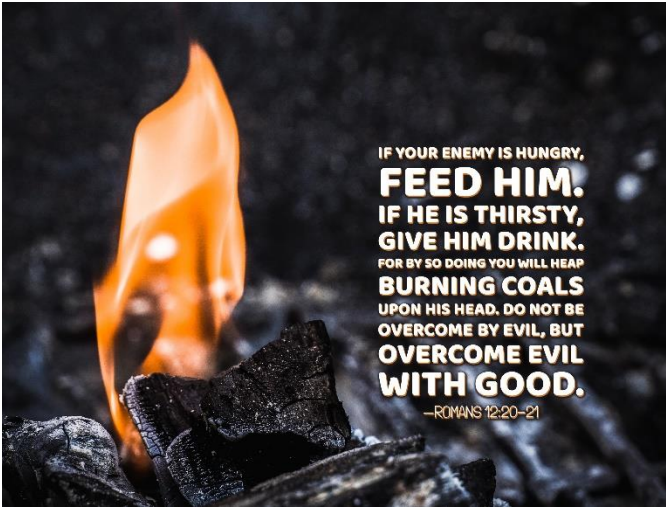


Overcoming Evil

The Force of Goodness



By

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Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12: 20, 21

Whoever said that “the greatest threat to humanity is humanity” really got it right. We just can’t seem to get out of our own way. You would think that with a global pandemic ravaging our planet we would have enough to deal with, but no, we just keep piling it on. Now we find ourselves besieged by something even more insidious, racial terrorism perpetrated by our local law enforcement agencies across our country. What makes this even worse is the fact that

we can't look to our national leadership for help or guidance because it supports these acts of cruelty. This is supposed to be the land of the free and the home of the brave, but if our present administration is allowed to remain in charge it will become the land of the privileged and home of the slaves. Agree with me or not this is what was meant by "making America great again." Our current leadership has no desire to be the leader of the free world. He would rather join the league of despots like Russia, China and North Korea who rule their countries with an iron hand. What we have witnessed over the last four years under this administration is nothing less the personification of pure evil!

The question begging to be asked is, what can be done to stop this? I would like to say that voting this administration out of office will

do it, but I'm afraid that will not be enough. Like it or not the damage inflicted on our country is much deeper than what a vote can cure. It will certainly be a good start, but still not nearly enough. If we want to effect real change, if our goal is to restore some genuine civility and respect for all mankind, we must eradicate the source of what plagues us. We must engage the real enemy head on with the ultimate objective of **Overcoming Evil!**

If history has taught us anything, it is that violence begets violence and that that never ends well for either side. What made Martin Luther King Jr. powerful as a leader was not his ability to wax eloquent, though eloquent he most certainly was. It was not his words that brought about change, no it was his actions. King understood that there had to be a force, not equal to the evils that were

presently prevailing, but a force greater than the prevailing evils that could do more than fight them off, but that could completely overcome them! He unleashed the **Force of Goodness!** **The Force of Goodness** tore down the walls of institutional racism, **The Force of Goodness** broke through the barriers of generational bigotry, and lifted the veil of evil, and injustice within our government. King handled the **The Force of Goodness** with the same skill that Michael Angelo used to paint the Mona Lisa. He directed **The Force of Goodness** with the same precision that Wernher von Braun, the rocket scientist, use to put the first man on the moon. The force of goodness is a mighty weapon in the right hands; however, it is only as mighty as the one yielding it.

In order to yield the **Force of Goodness** with effect, one must first understand the source of its power. That source is absolute faith in its origin, the Word of God. *“Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good”* Romans 12: 20, 21

You must understand that it requires great faith in order to fight with goodness. Fighting with goodness is not a means of retaliation or revenge. It is not an eye for an eye, no matter how tempting it may be.

In Paul’s letter to the church at Roman Paul was dealing with the same horrors of evil that we are faced with today. The church was being persecuted, not only by the Roman government, but by the Jews who were, in many instances, family and friends. Hear him as he provides guidance through the agency of the Holy Spirit: *“Recompense to no man*

evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.” Romans 12:17 In other words, you become the best example of how men should behave one to another. You become living proof that doing unto other as you would have them do unto you really is the best course of action. I know what you’re thinking, people of color are being mistreated, abused and even killed and you are spouting off about turning the other cheek. Paul knew then as we should know that you don’t pour gasoline on a fire to put it out. But he also knew that sometime you have to use a water hose to put out the fire. “If it be possible as much as lieth within you, live peaceably with all men.” Sometimes the fight is brought to you and you are left with no choice but to defend, but don’t you be on the offensive. *“As much as lieth within you,”*

exercise as much restraint as is humanly possible. It won't be easy! If it were everyone could do it. But hear again Paul as he ministers to the church: *“Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay saith the Lord.”* Remember what I said earlier in order to yield the power of goodness effectively you must be able to exercise absolute faith. Give God room to operate, he will fix it!

Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12: 20, 21

My brothers and sisters now is not the time for violence. Isaac Asimov one of the 20th

century's most prolific science fiction writers as well as theologian once said "Violence is the last refuge of the incompetent". When men of limited moral scope and devoid of the value of humanity give way to evil's influence they resort to violence. One writer called it running swiftly to mischief. However you look at it, let it not be our course of action, instead let us see this season for what it truly is, *coal heaping time!* I know that we have reached the breaking point, that evil seems to be running rampant, but we must not give in to our baser instincts, that's just what feeds evil's fire, but let's pour heaping coals of fire (**Force of Goodness**) on their heads and *overcome evil with good!*