

Do Not Fret Because of Evil Doers

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Psalm 37:1-4 (NKJV) “Do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. ³ Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. ⁴ delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.”

What can the righteous do when the wicked seem to prosper? What can the righteous do when people seem to get away with doing wrong? If we believe that God is righteous and just, then it makes sense that the righteous will be blessed by God and the wicked will be judged by God. However, it doesn't always seem to be that way. In fact, at times the opposite seems to be true. When this happens we often experience a crisis and crossroad in our faith. We must decide if it really matters whether we live for God and do what is right. In reality, this is where true faith begins. Can we believe that God is righteous and just only when it looks that way? That is not really faith at all. Faith is the ability to trust that God is righteous and just when everything around us screams the opposite. King David too believed that the righteous would prosper and that the wicked would find evil in this life. However, he saw the righteous struggle and the wicked prosper. That didn't add up. David's faith was in crisis and he struggled to find an answer. Psalm 37 is a record of David's journey from frustration to faith. What he learned can help us too.

First, David said we must not allow evildoers to disturb our peace or to distract us from our work: *“Do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.”* David said in verse 7-8: *“Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him. Do not fret because of him who prospers in the way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; do not fret—it only causes harm.”* Fretting does nothing good for us. Instead, it only causes harm!

How does fretting cause us harm? When we fret we look at people and get our eyes off of the LORD. We look at what's wrong and stop doing what is right. When we fret we get overwhelmed and feel that evil will prevail. Naturally this causes us to become frustrated and discouraged with living for the LORD. We become envious of the workers of iniquity and stray from our commitment to doing what is right. We begin focusing on what others are “getting away with”. We stop entrusting our cause to God and become obsessed with obtaining

personal justice or vengeance. We are no longer committed to the love walk. We plot against people rather than pray for them. Fretting only causes harm. It does not build our faith in God.

Second, remember the final outcome of evildoers. It is easy to focus on what evildoers seem to get away with now. But consider the things David reminded himself of in this psalm regarding the final state of evildoers: *“For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.”* (Verse 2); *“For evildoers shall be cut off...”* (Verse 9); *“For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; indeed, you will look carefully for his place, but it shall be no more.”* (Verse 10); *“The LORD laughs at them for He sees that his day is coming.”* (Verse 13); *“Their sword shall enter their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.”* (Verse 15); *“For the arms of the wicked shall be broken...”* (Verse 17); *“But the wicked shall perish; and the enemies of the Lord, like the splendor of the meadows, shall vanish. Into smoke they shall vanish away.”* (Verse 20); *“...those cursed by Him shall be cut off.”* (Verse 22); *“...but the descendants of the wicked shall be cut off.”* (Verse 28); *“...when the wicked are cut off, you shall see it. I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a native green tree. Yet he passed away, and behold, he was no more; indeed I sought him, but he could not be found.”* (Verse 34-36); and *“But the transgressors shall be destroyed together; the future of the wicked shall be cut off.”* (Verse 38). Before we get too envious of evildoers, let us consider their final end!

Third, trust in the Lord. Trusting in the Lord means that we hold to the Biblical revelation of God as good, righteous, and just. We trust that God will do what He has promised no matter what things may seem like at the moment. David said, *“Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.”* (Verses 5-6); *“Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him;”* (Verse 7). *“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down.”* (Verse 21)

Fourth, overcome evil with good: *“Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell forevermore. For the LORD loves justice, and does not forsake His saints; they are preserved forever”* (Verses 27-28) God is keeping accounts. If we do what is right, we will be rewarded. If we repay evil with evil, then we become just like evildoers and God will not hold us guiltless!

Fifth, focus on possessing the land. Don't give in to the idea that evildoers will prevail. The land, spiritually speaking, belongs to the righteous. Believe that it is yours and dwell in it! *“For evildoers shall be cut off; but those who wait on the Lord, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; indeed, you will look carefully for his place, but it shall be no more. But the*

meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.” (Verses 9-11); “The righteous shall inherit the land and dwell in it forever.” (Verse 29).

Sixth, feed on God’s faithfulness. Don’t feed your mind and heart with questions. Feed your faith on the faithfulness of God. God will do what He says He will do! *“The Lord knows the days of the upright, and their inheritance shall be forever. They shall not be ashamed in the evil time, and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.” (Verses 18-19) “For the LORD loves justice, and does not forsake His saints; they are preserved forever.” (Verse 28).*

Seventh, remember that God will save the righteous from the wicked. God will deliver the righteous at the proper time according to His purpose. *“But the salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; He is their strength in the time of trouble. And the Lord shall help them and deliver them; He shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in Him.” (Verse 39-40)* If God is for us, then who can be against us?

Eighth, wait on the Lord: *“For evildoers shall be cut off; but those who wait on the Lord, they shall inherit the earth.” (Verse 9)* This world is full of evil, but God is at work on our behalf. We must trust that He is working all things together for our good. God and time are on the side of the righteous. All we need is faith and patience. There is no need to fret because of evildoers. Everything will be as God has promised!