



It's Depressing to think Evil Is Winning. What Can We Do to Keep from Being Discouraged? by [John T Polk II](#)

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

QUESTION: It's so depressing to think Evil is winning. What can we do to keep from being discouraged?

REPLY: "We do not lose heart" means "we do not give in to evil." The Bible gives us reasons why we do not:

1. We can pray to God. "Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart" (**Luke 18:1**). Even an unjust judge can yield to persistent pleading from a mistreated widow. Jesus taught: "And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?" (**Luke 18:7**) God is not "unjust," but ready to hear prayer. He will respond appropriately in His own time. And, remember Jesus' prayer on the cross: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (**Luke 23:34**). His prayer left hope for the hopeless to repent!
2. We can receive His mercy. "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart" (**2 Corinthians 3:18 - 4:1**). David prayed: "LORD, be merciful to me; Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You." (**Psalms 41:4**). Only a self-confessed sinner appreciates what it means for God to be "merciful." God's Covenant is that in Jesus Christ: "I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more" (**Hebrews 8:12**). God promised that: "in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him" (**Acts 10:35**). Saul's prayers did not save him, but when he was told to "Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (**Acts 22:16**), "he arose and was baptized" (**Acts 9:18**). God is merciful to sinners who need His mercy.
3. We can out-live our body. "Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day" (**2 Corinthians 4:16**). This life is clearly not all there is to it, for we know: "that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you" (**2 Corinthians 4:14**). Our "inward" is superior to, and unhindered by, our "outward." We must fight this battle daily: "Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul" (**1 Peter 2:11**).

4. We can be rewarded for our good. "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart" (**Galatians 6:9**). "Doing good" is following the example of Jesus, for He "went about doing good" (**Acts 10:38**), and this is a major part of being a Christian. "But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased" (**Hebrews 13:16**).

God rewards "good." -jtpll May 10, 2020