

Good News in an Evil Age

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³Grace and spiritual blessing be to you and [soul] peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah),
⁴Who gave (yielded) Himself up [^ato atone] for our sins [and ^bto save and sanctify us], in order to rescue and deliver us from this present wicked age and world order, in accordance with the will and purpose and plan of our God and Father--
⁵To Him [be ascribed all] the glory through all the ages of the ages and the eternities of the eternities! Amen (so be it).
Galatians 1:3-5 (Amplified)

"...The reason the Son of God was made manifest (visible) was to undo (destroy, loosen, and dissolve) the works the devil [has done].
I John 3:8 (Amplified Bible)

Let's try to answer three questions:

1. What are the works of the devil?
2. How does Jesus destroy the works of the devil?
3. How can I cooperate with Jesus to see the works of the devil destroyed in my life and family?

1. What are the works of the devil?

A. According to John 8:42-44, the works of the devil are:

- 1) Deception
- 2) Confusion
- 3) Murder
- 4) Lies

B. According to John 10:8-11, the devil works to:

- 1) Steal
- 2) Kill
- 3) Destroy

C. According to James 3:13-18, the devil's works are:

- 1) Bitter jealousy
- 2) Selfish ambition
- 3) Arrogance
- 4) Dishonesty
- 5) Disorder
- 6) Every evil thing.

Note: 3 levels exist here

Earthly
Natural
Demonic

D. By implication from James 3:17-18, the works of the devil are:

- 1) Impurity
- 2) Conflict
- 3) Harshness
- 4) Unreasonableness
- 5) Judgmental attitude
- 6) Hypocritical behavior

The Antithesis to
verses 17-18

2. How does Jesus destroy the works of the devil?

³¹"Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. John 12:31 (NASB)

³⁸"You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. Acts 10:38 (NASB)

A. Acts 10:38

- 1) Anointing of the Holy Spirit...Authority
- 2) The Power of God
- 3) Goodness

¹³Now when Jesus heard about John, He withdrew from there in a boat to a secluded place by Himself; and when the people heard of this, they followed Him on foot from the cities. ¹⁴When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, "This place is desolate and the hour is already late; so send the crowds away, that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away; you give them something to eat!" ¹⁷They said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸And He said, "Bring them here to Me." ¹⁹Ordering the people to sit down on the grass, He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food, and breaking the loaves He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds, ²⁰and they all ate and were satisfied. They picked up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve full baskets. Matthew 14:13-20 (NASB)

B. Matthew 14:13-20

- 1) Compassion
- 2) Healing Power
- 3) Meeting physical needs

¹When Jesus had finished giving instructions to His twelve disciples, He departed from there to teach and preach in their cities. ²Now when John, while imprisoned, heard of the works of Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to Him, "Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?" ⁴Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive sight and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. Matthew 11:1-5 (NASB)

C. Matthew 11:1-5

- 1) The blind are cured.
- 2) The lame walk.
- 3) The lepers are cleansed.
- 4) The deaf hear.
- 5) The dead are raised.
- 6) The poor hear the Gospel.

²³Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people. ²⁴The news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them. Matthew 4:23-24 (NASB)

- D. Matthew 4:23-24
- 1) By proclamation of the Gospel of the Kingdom. (See Luke 11:20)
 - 2) By healing every kind of disease and sickness.
 - 3) By delivering demoniacs
 - 4) By comforting the suffering and pain of life.

3. How can I cooperate with Jesus to see the works of the devil destroyed in my life and family?

Make God your focus not the enemy!

²⁸Therefore they said to Him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?" ²⁹Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."
John 6:28-29 (NASB)

A. Believe the proclamation of the Gospel of the Kingdom. (John 6:28-29)

¹⁹Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. John 5:19 (NASB)

B. Cooperate with God's transformation process. (Romans 12:1-2 and John 5:19)

⁷Submit therefore to God Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God and He will draw near to you Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
James 4:7-8 (NASB)

C. Recognize the sequence found in James 4:7-8... Submit to God first, then resist the devil...draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

D. Ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit and to touch you with His power. (I Corinthians 2:4-5)

E. Believe the truth of I John 4:4, greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.

F. We overcome the evil one by the Authority and Power of Jesus in us. We overcome evil with good...love is a mighty force!