

*Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:19-21 (NIV)*

## **Your Enemy**

**How have you responded to your enemies? What have you done for those who have done evil against you?** Well, I have often brainstormed how I might get even with them. I have considered how I might repay them for every evil that they have done against me. **Have you spent a lot of time thinking these kinds of thoughts?** I am embarrassed to admit how much time I have wasted imagining what do to those who have hurt me. **Have you found thoughts of payback and revenge to be helpful and healthy?** Thinking thoughts of payback and revenge have been nothing more than a large waste of time. **Why is that?** I can't think of one time that I actually paid someone back or took revenge against them. **You just day dreamed about payback and taking revenge against evil that was done against you?** That's right. **That is a big waste of time.**

**I want you to take a far different approach to those who have done evil against you.** What's that? **You are going to like this, I think.** I can't imagine that. **You like to brainstorm. You like to day dream. You like to think through scenarios. You like to think about future possibilities of your actions.** Yes, I do like to do all those things. **Well, I want you to do all those things toward an enemy that has done something to hurt you.** I'm already doing that. **Yes, I know. But, you are doing all those things with an evil intent of paying them back and seeking revenge.** That's true. **I want you to do just the opposite.** Like what?

**Imagine that one of your strongest enemies became your best friend.** That's hard to imagine. **Stay with me. How would you try to turn one of your strongest enemies into one of your best friends?** I would begin to brainstorm how I could do good things for them. Then I would look for any and every opportunity to follow through and actually do good things for them. **That's good. What else?** I would pray for them continually. **That's also very good. Why would you be willing to do good things toward your enemy? Why would you be willing to continually pray for them?** I would do good things for my enemy and pray for them because that is what you are asking of me. **That's right.** If you do what I am asking of you, then you may not only have an enemy as a best friend but you might have them as a brother or sister. **Wouldn't it be amazing if your enemy joined you in heaven because of the way that you allowed me to work in and through your life?** That would be amazing. **Start doing good things for your enemy as you pray for them.** Yes, Lord, I will.

*Lord, I have sought revenge. I have wanted to pay back others for evil done against me. Forgive me. I will make every effort to overcome evil by doing good. I will seek to turn enemies into friends by doing good things for them. Use me as your witness. Amen*

**God's Will** *Overcome Evil With Good*

Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

NIV Romans 12:19-21

**God's Will** *Conquer Evil By Doing Good*

Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the LORD. Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads." Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

NLT Romans 12:19-21

**God's Will** *Overcome Evil With Good*

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

NRSV Romans 12:19-21

**God's Will** *Overcome Evil With Good*

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave the way open for [God's] wrath; for it is written, Vengeance is Mine, I will repay (requite), says the Lord. But if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head. Do not let yourself be overcome by evil, but overcome (master) evil with good.

AMP Romans 12:19-21

**God's Will** *Overcome Evil With Good*

Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

NASB Romans 12:19-21

**God's Will** *Overcome Evil With Good*

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

ESV Romans 12:19-21

**God's Will** *Overcome Evil With Good*

Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, "*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*" says the Lord. Therefore "*If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.*" Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

NKJV Romans 12:19-21

**God's Will** *Get The Best Of Evil By Doing Good*

Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. "I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it." Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he's thirsty, get him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness. Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good.

MSG Romans 12:19-21

**God's Will** *Conquer Evil By Doing Good*

Dear friends, never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God, for he has said that he will repay those who deserve it. [Don't take the law into your own hands.] Instead, feed your enemy if he is hungry. If he is thirsty give him something to drink and you will be "heaping coals of fire on his head." In other words, he will feel ashamed of himself for what he has done to you. Don't let evil get the upper hand, but conquer evil by doing good.

TLB Romans 12:19-21

**God's Will** *Defeat Evil By Doing Good*

My friends, do not try to punish others when they wrong you, but wait for God to punish them with his anger. It is written: "I will punish those who do wrong; I will repay them," says the Lord. But you should do this: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. Doing this will be like pouring burning coals on his head." Do not let evil defeat you, but defeat evil by doing good.

NCV Romans 12:19-21

# Overcome Evil With Good

Year \_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_

**God's Will** – Romans 12:19-21

**In Context:** *Read Romans 12*

**Begin With Prayer:**

***Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.***

**Meditating On God's Word:** ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:19-21

**Considering The Words:** ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Do not | take revenge, | my friends, | but | leave room | for | God's wrath, | for | it is written: | "It is | mine | to avenge; | I will | repay," | says | the Lord. | On | the contrary: | "If | your enemy | is hungry, | feed him; | if he | is thirsty, | give him | something to | drink. | In doing this, | you will | heap | burning coals | on | his head." | Do not | be overcome | by evil, | but | overcome evil | with good. Romans 12:19-21

**Praying The Scripture:**

***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I have sought revenge. I have wanted to pay back others for evil done against me. Forgive me. I will make every effort to overcome evil by doing good. I will seek to turn enemies into friends by doing good things for them. Use me as your witness. Amen

**What It Means:**

***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When have you wrongly considered how you might secure revenge for evil done against you?

**Why is overcoming evil by doing good completely contrary to common practice in the world?**

How are you making every effort to overcome evil by doing good?

**What good things are you doing for someone who may be your enemy?**

How has overcoming evil by doing good made you able to shine brightly as a witness for Jesus Christ?

When has an enemy been astounded by the good things that you continued to do for them?

**How satisfying would it be if an enemy became your friend because of the good things you did for them?**

**Living It Out:**

***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Make every effort to overcome evil by doing the good things God gives you to do for Him?

**Seeing It Happen:**

***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will make you able to overcome evil by doing the good He gives you to do for Him

**Get Ready To Share:**

***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how are you overcoming evil by doing what is good.

**Close With Prayer:**

***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

*Pause And Offer Prayers Of...*

*With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You*

Adoration... \_\_\_\_\_

Thanksgiving... \_\_\_\_\_

Confession... \_\_\_\_\_

Intercession... \_\_\_\_\_

Petition... \_\_\_\_\_

**Journal**

*As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord*

**What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?**

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**What Prayers Are You Praying Today?**

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**Prayer Of Blessing**

*(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)*

*May you always overcome evil by doing good that God gives you to do.*

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**Prayer To Carry**

*(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)*

*Lord, I will always overcome evil by doing the good things that you give me to do.*

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**What Do You Want To Remember About Today?**

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**A Question To Ask God**

*(What Would You Like To Ask God?)*

*Lord, how can I overcome evil by doing good today?*

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