

Living with a Good God in an Evil World - continued (Coping With Evil and Suffering)

Last time, we determined that God is all good and all powerful, yet evil exists. We sought to understand why our good and powerful God allows evil to exist in our world.

Now, we are going to discuss how to cope with evil and suffering with two positive assertions:

1. God has provided a future without evil for those who choose Him now.

2 Timothy 4:18 "The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen."

It helps to cope with the evil and suffering in this world when we remember that this is only temporary and our future will be completely void of all this. Even if our life is cut short by the evil inflicted upon us by death, we are immediately with Christ.

2. God has provided peace and hope in the face of evil for those who choose Him now.

(Matt 10:28; Phil 4:6–7; Jn 14:27)

Seven Instructions On How To Cope With Evil and Suffering

1.) If we are going to respond correctly to the evil in this world, we must first receive from Jesus His peace that He freely gives His followers.

John 14:27 (ESV)

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.

Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

2.) It's okay to express our frustration to God.

(Psalm 13:1–4)

In expressing our frustration regarding our situations, many make the mistake of blaming God and being angry at God and expressing their frustration with God.

This begs the question: Is it okay to be mad at God? The answer is a resounding NO.

NO, it's not okay. If you are mad at God, you are implying that God did something wrong or that God failed to do something right. In doing this, you have placed yourself as judge over God - a dangerous place to be. It's okay to "feel" mad at God as long as you can knowledge that you realize your feelings are not in tune with truth.

3.) We must always affirm that God is still trustworthy.

Psalm 13:5–6 (ESV)

5 But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

6 I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

4.) We must hold to the hope that God is working through the evil.

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

5.) We must wait and trust.

(Psalm 46:10; Isaiah 40:28–31; Psalm 37:7–9)

6.) We must do what we can do to was suffering.

(James 1:27)

7.) We must surrender ourselves to the hands of God.

(Luke 22:41–42)