

## 2. Seek God D in Seasons of Suffering

*Turn Towards: Trust in, Focus on, Awe of Jesus*

James 4:7–8 “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. [8] Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (ESV)

## 3. Find S and Protection In Jesus

Ephesians 6:10–11 “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.”

## 4. Prioritize the O of Your Love Wisely

1 John 2:15–16 “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.”

## 5. Focus F Patiently on Jesus’ Future Return: When All Evil Destroyed

1 Corinthians 15:24–26 “Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.”

Romans 8:18. “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

## 2020 Bible Reading Plan: The New Testament!!!

*Will you join us? IN FELLOWSHIP WITH SOMEONE?*

**Week #17: 2 Corinthians 3 - 7**

## Why Does God Allow COVID19?

**Remember from our first 5 weeks:**

1. We Find Freedom from Fear in the **Fear of the Lord - Faith Over Fear**
2. The **Bigger** You See **God**, The **Tinier** Your **Troubles** Will Be — The Higher Your Perspective, The Smaller Your Problems!
3. On Difficult Days You Need JUST JESUS
4. Why You Need to **REST** In the Father’s Love
5. You Are **WANTED**: Dead & Alive

*God Allows Evil to Continue that We Might Turn To Him In Repentance (Luke 13:1-5 )*

Luke 13:5 “No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.” (ESV)

*Turn Away: Self-Reliance, Self-Focus, Self-Love*  
*Turn Towards: Trust in, Focus on, Awe of Jesus*

## We Need Jesus! Admit Your D on God

Romans 8:20–21 “For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.” (ESV)

# Why Does God Allow Evil to Continue?

## 3 Effects of the Fall: 3 Types of Evil & Enemies

### Fallen Angels

**S** \_\_\_\_\_ **Evil:** Satan and his demons

Ephesians 6:12 “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

### Fallen People

**M** \_\_\_\_\_ **Evil:** Human Choices of Sin

Ourselves & Others - Commission & Omission

1 John 2:16 “For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.”

### Fallen World N \_\_\_\_\_ Evil:

Disasters, Disease (COVID19), Accidents & Death

1 John 2:17 “And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.”

### Does God Cause Evil?

#### 1. All Suffering Can Feel Like Evil

- Sometimes we don't see the source of our suffering clearly...it can be a complex or hidden combination of sources and responsibilities.
- We often don't see the purposes of suffering.
- Job 1:8 “there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?”
- Genesis 50:20 “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.”

#### 2. God's J \_\_\_\_\_ & Wrath Is Not Evil

- Current Judgment Is Designed to Turn Us Toward Himself - God's Patience
- Future Judgement Is to Fulfill His Righteous Justice
- Amos 5:15 “Hate evil, and love good, and establish justice”
- Proverbs 8:13 “The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil & perverted speech I hate.”

#### 3. God's D \_\_\_\_\_ Is Not Evil

- Discipline Is Designed to Protect Us from Evil by Drawing Us Closer to His Loving Instruction

#### 4. God Hasn't Ended All Evil Yet Because of His P \_\_\_\_\_ Love for Our Repentance

2 Peter 3:9–10 “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”

## 5 Steps Forward In A COVID19 Season

### 1. Take R \_\_\_\_\_ : Don't Blame-Shift

*Turn Away: Self-Reliance, Self-Focus, Self-Love*

James 1:13–15 “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God,’ for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”

## Why Does God Allow COVID19?

**Remember from our first 5 weeks:**

1. We Find Freedom from Fear in the **Fear of the Lord - Faith Over Fear**
2. The **Bigger** You See **God**, The **Tinier** Your **Troubles** Will Be — The Higher Your Perspective, The Smaller Your Problems!
3. On Difficult Days You Need JUST JESUS
4. Why You Need to **REST** In the Father's Love
5. You Are **WANTED**: Dead & Alive

*God Allows Evil to Continue that We Might Turn To Him In Repentance (Luke 13:1-5 )*

Luke 13:5 “No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.” (ESV)

*Turn Away:* Self-Reliance, Self-Focus, Self-Love  
*Turn Towards:* Trust in, Focus on, Awe of Jesus

### **We Need Jesus! Admit Your Dependency on God**

Romans 8:20–21 “For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.” (ESV)

TRUSTWORTHYWORD.COM

## Why Does God Allow Evil to Continue?

3 Effects of the Fall: 3 Types of Evil & Enemies

### **Fallen Angels**

**Spiritual Evil:** Satan and his demons

Ephesians 6:12 “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

### **Fallen People**

**Moral Evil:** Human Choices of Sin

Ourselves & Others - Commission & Omission

1 John 2:16 “For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.”

### **Fallen World Natural Evil:**

Disasters, Disease (COVID19), Accidents & Death

1 John 2:17 “And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.”

### **Does God Cause Evil?**

#### **1. All Suffering Can Feel Like Evil**

- Sometimes we don't see the source of our suffering clearly...it can be a complex or hidden combination of sources and responsibilities.
- We often don't see the purposes of suffering.
- Job 1:8 “there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?”
- Genesis 50:20 “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.”

April 19, 2020

## **2. God's Justice & Wrath Is Not Evil**

- Current Judgment Is Designed to Turn Us Toward Himself - God's Patience
- Future Judgement Is to Fulfill His Righteous Justice
- Amos 5:15 "Hate evil, and love good, and establish justice"
- Proverbs 8:13 "The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil & perverted speech I hate."

## **3. God's Discipline Is Not Evil**

- Discipline Is Designed to Protect Us from Evil by Drawing Us Closer to His Loving Instruction

## **4. God Hasn't Ended All Evil Yet Because of His Patient Love for Our Repentance**

2 Peter 3:9–10 "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."

## **2. Seek God Desperately in Seasons of Suffering**

*Turn Towards: Trust in, Focus on, Awe of Jesus*

James 4:7–8 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. [8] Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (ESV)"

## **3. Find Strength and Protection In Jesus**

Ephesians 6:10–11 "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."

## **4. Prioritize the Objects of Your Love Wisely**

1 John 2:15–16 "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world."

## **5. Focus Forward Patiently on Jesus' Future Return: When All Evil Destroyed**

1 Corinthians 15:24–26 "Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death."

Romans 8:18. "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

## **5 Steps Forward In A COVID19 Season**

### **1. Take Responsibility: Don't Blame-Shift**

*Turn Away: Self-Reliance, Self-Focus, Self-Love*

James 1:13–15 "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God,' for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death."