

RETURN EVIL FOR GOOD

In the book of Proverbs, there is a very powerful verse that can have a devastating effect on people's lives if they aren't aware of how this principle could bring negative consequences. The verse is Proverbs 17:13:

Proverbs 17:13

"He who returns evil for good, evil will not depart from his house."

While this is a short verse, the obvious impact on someone's life could be large. There are no apparent conditions, so the verse must stand as is and mean exactly what it appears to mean.

One obvious example of this principle is when Saul became jealous of the people attributing more slain to David than to himself (1 Samuel 18:7). Immediately, he became suspicious of David. An evil spirit from the Lord came mightily upon him and he tried to kill David – returning evil for David laying down his life for his king and country in battle.

1 Samuel 18:10-11

"Now it came about on the next day that an evil spirit from God came mightily upon Saul, and he raved in the midst of the house, while David was playing {the harp} with his hand, as usual; and a spear {was} in Saul's hand.

And Saul hurled the spear for he thought, 'I will pin David to the wall.' But David escaped from his presence twice."

Another example involves David's wife, Michal. David had just successfully brought the Ark back into Jerusalem in the midst of much joy and celebration, which included David wildly dancing in the streets before the Lord. She despised him for the "show", returning evil for him leading the people in praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. She became barren as a result.

1 Chronicles 15:29

"And it happened when the ark of the covenant of the LORD came to the city of David, that Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and making merry; and she despised him in her heart."

2 Samuel 6:23

"And Michal the daughter of Saul had no child to the day of her death."

How do we return evil for good? This can be done in numerous ways. Should someone come seeking forgiveness, he is doing good; should you not forgive him in your heart, you are returning evil for his good intent. If someone is selected for a place or position and did an upright and honest job getting there, they did good. If you despise them for beating you out, you are doing evil. If you gossip about someone, spreading a lie without provocation, you return evil for good. These are only a few possible examples.