

BFF366 Deliver Us from Evil

Scott Moore: Welcome to the "Building Faith Families" podcast with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

Steve: I am well, Scott. How are you?

Scott: Bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, I suppose.

Steve: It's, absolutely, gorgeous weather over here. Did you have a good Mother's Day?

Scott: I think so. My wife seemed to have a good day.

Steve: That's exactly right. It wasn't your day. It was your wife's day.

Scott: I think I did what I was supposed to do, although my daughter had her first Mother's Day, which was a little bit different than she thought it was going to be. That was neat to see that.

Steve: We hosted 20 people representing five families. God bless mothers. I've used this day as fodder for prayer this week. On Sunday, while I was out with the pups, I was praying and asking God to deliver our families from the evil one.

Scott: Amen.

Steve: This is one of his primary targets, marriage and families. I'm praying for the restoration of families where fathers' hearts are turned toward home, and vice versa. In the prayer which Jesus gave to His disciples, He taught us, "Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name," etc., and at the very end He says, "Lead us not into temptation, but," four words, "deliver us from evil."

Let's pray. Father, thank You for all the wonderful moms that we have, all the wonderful ones that are listening, and all the moms that we are seeking to honor on this day. Thank You for a day set apart.

As most of us know, every day is a child's day, and there are very few times that we stop and actually honor our moms and our dads. We honor moms today. We thank You for them.

I pray that You help us now on this podcast to know how to respond to our enemy, who is anti-mother, anti-father, and anti-family. In Jesus's name, Amen.

Scott: Amen.

Steve: There are two words that I was focusing on this morning. The first one is deliver, and the second one is evil. I'm going to go backwards. I'm going to start with evil. I'm going to read a couple scriptures to get the picture, but evil comes from the Greek word ponēros.

It made me not want to go to Panera Bread after I read that word a couple times, ponēros. Matthew 13:36-39, "He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.'"

He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil.

"When anyone hears the words of the kingdom, and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path."

It's really important to understand, and I don't think that the listeners of our podcast have any problem with this, that we are engaged in a conflict. There is God, and there is the anti-God, the devil. We have Jesus, and we have the Antichrist. This is the situation.

It can be difficult to see the battle. We know about abortion and child trafficking and we hate these things, because they're evil and they're wrong. However we don't see the awfulness of them since the media, the powers that control the stream of information, which is controlled by the prince of power of the air, the god of this world, tries to anesthetize it. But murdering babies and stealing children is evil. We have an evil enemy, the devil, who is behind these things.

Ephesians 6:16, "In all circumstances, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one," because the evil one is throwing flaming darts at us. We have an enemy.

I find a lot of comfort in 1 John 5:18–19. It may be translated several different ways, but let's focus on the kernel in the middle of it.

"We have known that everyone who has been begotten of God does not sin, but he who was begotten of God does keep himself, and the evil one does not touch him. We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one."

He's called in other places the prince of the power of the air, and the god of this world. We read here that the whole world lies in his power, for now. We are living in enemy territory, those of us that have been begotten of God, but don't forget 1 John 5:18 "The evil one does not touch him." Remember that Jesus closes up His wonderful prayer to His disciples, "deliver us from evil."

Sometimes in my prayer life I don't know how to pray. Sometimes I don't know the name of the demon or what's fully transpiring on, but it's pretty safe to pray, "Deliver us from evil," or "deliver us from the evil one."

Most translators would agree that when you see these words, tú ponēró or touís ponēróís, it's not just evil, it's the evil one.

All right, what about that word "deliver?" There are three passages I'm going to read that help us to grasp this. We know that Jesus is our Savior. He's our deliverer. He's the great deliverer.

2 Corinthians 1:9–10. "Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. That was to make us rely not on ourselves, but on God Who raises the dead. He **delivered** us from such a deadly peril, and He will **deliver** us. On Him, we have set our hope that He will **deliver** us again."

Notice the word deliver, mentioned three times in this one verse,

2 Corinthians 1:10, he uses the word *rhuomai*, which means to rescue and to deliver. He delivered and rescued us from a deadly peril, and He will continue to deliver us. We have set our hope on Him that He will deliver us again.

Colossians 1:13, "He has delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son." This is what God does. He delivers us from evil. He rescues us from the domain of darkness. He transfers us into the kingdom of His beloved Son, where, as we've already read, the evil one cannot touch us.

The shield of faith extinguishes all the flaming darts of the evil one. 2 Timothy 4:17-18, "The Lord stood by me and strengthened me so that, through me, the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. I was rescued from the lion's mouth. 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."

We have a powerful and wonderful deliverer, a mighty Savior, a successful Captain of our salvation, Who delivers us from all the fiery darts of the devil. It's also important that we pray and mix faith with these promises on a regular basis.

Sometimes I simply say, "Deliver us from evil. Deliver my family from evil. Give us our daily bread. Don't lead us into temptation. Deliver our church from evil. Deliver the world from evil. Deliver God's people from evil. Deliver Henry from evil."

It's part of my prayer language, because it is the language of scripture, and I like to use scripture whenever possible. If God tells us to pray, "Deliver us from evil," then I'm going to use that same expression, "Deliver me, deliver my family, deliver Your people from evil. Amen." What do you think of that?

Scott: It strikes me, as a lot of things lately, that this is all His deal. Even if we're engaging, as the disciples occasionally did, or more than occasionally, I don't know. Even if we were engaging, let's say, a foul spirit to command it to go away, it's still all about Jesus delivering us from evil.

It's like the dude who tried in the name of Jesus, who Paul worships, "Be gone," or whatever. The demon was like, "I know Jesus and I know about Paul, but who are you?" It's all about Jesus. If we don't have Him delivering us, we're sunk.

Steve: Yes. We're appealing, and we're asking. I don't know how to make this more emphatic, but it grows on me that God likes to be asked, and he wants to be appealed to. He tells us to pray about everything, and He tells us to pray day and night continually. Prayer needs to be our spiritual breath.

I met a man while attending seminary who had spent 40 years in a Muslim country and after ministering faithfully for all that time, only had a handful of people that had come to Christ, very little fruit over all those years. Yet he was one of the godliest, nicest, gentlest, spirit-filled man you'd ever meet. His eyes, man, you look into his eyes. I don't know how to describe it, but he was quite a man.

I asked him at the professor's house one evening, "What part does prayer have in your life?" hoping for some helpful insight. He looked at me as if I had asked him, "What

part does water have in your thirst?" He matter of factly replied, "Well, it's like breathing."

Steve: This is what we need to be doing. We need to be breathing prayer on a regular basis. When we hear stuff in the paper, we need to be praying, "God, deliver us from evil." Instead of looking at it and saying, "Oh, woe is me," we need to be asking. We need to be participating with God, and asking Him to help us.

God goes way out of His way to tell us, "Ask, seek, knock." Then, He encourages us and says, "If I don't answer right away, keep asking, keep seeking, keep knocking." He gives examples of the guy that woke up his friend in the middle of the night and wanted a loaf of bread, or the widow who kept bugging the judge until she got what she was after. It's like God saying, "This is what I want you to do. I want you to bug me until I give you answers."

We're a little offtrack here, but the point is, yes, it's all about Him. We have to continue to run to Him, continue to pray to Him, and continue to ask Him to do for us what He told us to ask, "Deliver us from the power of the evil one. Deliver us from the evil. Deliver us from the devil," and we're hiding behind Him, like we talked about last time, because He is the one. Amen.

Scott: 1 Thessalonians 16:18, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

That verse with the "pray continually" part, but actually all of it, was such a revolution in my spiritual life that when I removed the idea that prayer was something you did in formal settings, where you were reading out of a book and it was in a "service," but that prayer was something that you do like breathing.

Not that I do it that well, but the idea that it can happen all day long throughout the day, and that's what I've tried to do. Again, it's not like I'm always thinking in a prayerful mindset, but the idea that I can approach Him at any time, the throne of God is open for me to approach. That's pretty cool.

Steve: Amen. We have more power than we realize. God has given us authority to do these kind of things, and this is what we can do. Deliver us from evil. Father, help us to continue to do this. Do it for us today. Deliver our country from evil. Deliver our church from evil, your church. Deliver our families from evil. Deliver our children from evil.

Deliver unborn babies from evil. Deliver us from evil. Deliver us from the evil one. In the name of Jesus. We're not just going to talk today. We want to pray. We pray for families that are struggling. Deliver them from evil. I have families, just met a bunch at Pennsylvania conferences last week, and some of them have issues.

Well, we all have issues, but I pray specifically that You'll deliver those ones that are really hurting today. Deliver them from evil. Deliver our government from evil. Deliver our lawmakers from evil. We do this, Father, in Jesus's name because we're on your team.

We're believing that someday Your kingdom is going to come, and Your will is going to be done on earth just as it is in heaven. To that end, we're praying now. Deliver us from the evil one. We bind Him in the name of Jesus. We bind them today. We bind them tomorrow.

We continue to struggle and fight, and persist in our prayers. Give us that indomitable thing in our hearts that we'll continue to pray with You, and believe with You until Your kingdom comes, and Your will is done, just the way You first saw in the Garden of Eden in Jesus's name. Amen.

Scott: Amen. That's our show for this week, folks. Thanks for joining us for the Building Faith Families podcast with Steve Demme. If you have a question for the show, email Steve at spdemme@gmail.com.