

# Godly Youth

*Young in Age, Strong in Heart*

## Overcome Evil With Good

In Romans 12:21, Paul wrote to "not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good." In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught us to do good to those who treat us badly. This does not seem natural to us. When someone is mean to us, we often want to be mean back to them.

When we act mean to people who are mean to us, we make the world a darker place. When we act good towards people who do not deserve it, we bring glory to God.

Jesus said that if we love our enemies, say good things about our enemies when they speak evil of us, do good to those who do not like us, and pray for those who are mean to you, that you prove yourself a child of God

(Matthew 5:38-48).

I will freely admit that this is a very difficult thing to do every day. It makes us feel bad



when others treat us unkindly. We must remember that a person who does this often has a small view of himself or herself. If we allow them to make us think less of ourselves, then they feel better about themselves.

There is no worse thing for a bully than to find someone who will act kind when bullied and does not care when the bully makes fun of them. When you do

not allow their opinion to matter to you, you take away their power.

If you pray for the bully and help them when they are in need, it is hard for him to continue to have such a bad attitude towards you.

When I was in high school there was a boy who used to flick my ears and bother me in class. One day I turned around and, without whining or yelling, asked why he enjoyed it so much. He looked surprised; I guess no one had ever asked him. Embarrassed, he said, "I don't know. I just do it." But from that day on, he did not do it anymore and, in fact, became a friend!

Not everyone will become your friend but you do not have to answer their evil with evil. Jesus was good to those who were evil; we should be too.

## Pray for: Help in Temptation

In the model prayer of Matthew 6:13, Jesus told His followers to pray that they would not be led into temptation and that, when tempted, they would be delivered.

Through bad choices, some people find themselves tempted when, if they had made better decisions, would not have been tempted. If you hang around people who do things that you know are not right, you will likely find yourself in a situation that you could have avoided.

We should pray to God for wise judgment to avoid temptation.

It is not always possible to avoid temptation so we should also pray that God would help us in temptation. In 1 Corinthians 10:13, God promised that with each temptation He will provide a way to escape evil. We must pray to God for the wisdom to see the way of escape and the courage to take it. Since Satan is our enemy, we need to pray for God's help.

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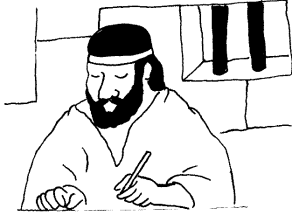
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*" [They] searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so."*

*Acts 17:11*



### Facts about the Book of Acts

- The second of two letters Luke wrote to Theophilus
- Tells about the work of Peter, Paul, and the non-apostle Phillip
- Describes the beginning of the church in Jerusalem in Acts 2
- Describes the spread of the gospel throughout the world to Jews and Gentiles



***“Know what you will do in a situation before that situation arises.”***

## The Book of Acts

The book of Acts was letter written by Luke to someone names Theophilus (pronounced the-off-fill-us). The gospel of Luke was also written to this man.

The gospel of Luke told the story of Jesus' life and His death for our sins. The book of Acts begins with Jesus going back to heaven and the apostles going into the world to teach the gospel. The book of Acts is a history of the early church.

Though it is called the Acts of the Apostles, the book only tells about the work of the apostles Peter and Paul as well as Phillip who was not an apostle.

The first seven chapters describe the beginning of the church (Acts 2) and its growth in Jerusalem. Acts 8 describes the work

of the preacher Phillip and his work in Samaria, not far from Jerusalem.

Acts 9 begins with Saul's persecution of the church. When the Christians were persecuted, they left Jerusalem and went to faraway cities and preached the gospel.

While persecuting the church, Jesus appeared to Saul. Soon Saul, whose name was changed to Paul, preached the gospel of Jesus throughout the world.

Acts 10 and 11 describes the first time that the gospel was preached to people who were not Jews. This meant that the gospel was the message of salvation for all people, not just the Jews.

Acts 12 describes King Herod's attempt to quiet

Peter. However, an angel let Peter out of prison. Later, Herod died because he accepted worship as if he were God.

Acts 13-14 describes Paul's first preaching journey to spread the gospel into foreign cities.

Acts 15 describes a disagreement in which the Jewish Christians thought that non-Jewish Christians should keep the Old Law. The apostles, with the authority of God, decided that Christians did not have to keep the Old Law.

Acts 16-18:22 describes Paul's second preaching trip to foreign cities; Acts 18:23-21:16 describes Paul's third preaching journey. The rest of Acts describes Paul's trouble with the Jews and a trip to Rome for judgment.

### What Should You Do?

Ken and Larry were standing in the hall at school and noticed a red handle that, when pulled, would set off the fire alarm. Ken dared Larry to pull the handle and run away—he said it would be funny. When Larry did not do it, Ken said he was a “chicken” if he would not do it.

1. Why was Ken's choice smart?
2. How should you answer when someone dares you to do something wrong?
3. Why do you think someone would dare you to do wrong?

### Where Is This?

1. This river ran from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea.
2. John the Baptist baptized many people here (Mark 1:5)
3. Joshua led Israel across this river when the people entered the Promised Land (Josh 3)
4. Jesus was baptized in this river (Matthew 3:13)

*Do you know where this is? (Answer below)*

*It is the Jordan River!*

# Code Breaker: The Apostle's Mission

Use the key below to decode the message:

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 ◆⋈ℳ ℳ■Ω □⋈ ◆⋈ℳ ℳ⊕⊕◆⋈.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
⊕	Ω	ℳ	Ω	ℳ	⋈	⋈	⋈	⋈	er	&	●	○
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
■	□	ℳ	→	⊕	●	◆	◆	◆	⋈	⊕	▽	⋈

Memory Verse: Verse: Ephesians 5:20

“giving thanks always for all things to God the Father  
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ ”

Do you ever wonder why we often say, “in Jesus’ name” at the ending of prayers? This verse helps us understand why.

We approach our Father through Jesus. He is an intercessor (pronounced: enter-says-her). An intercessor is one who asks something on behalf of another person. When we pray to the Father, Jesus is on our side.

We must give thanks for

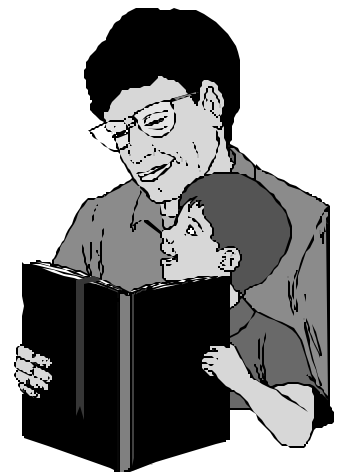
all things because all things come from God. Every blessing comes from God (James 1:17).

If you spent a lot of money or a lot of time on a gift for someone and they acted as if they did not care you would feel hurt, perhaps even angry. We are ungrateful if we do not give thanks for all things that God has given.

We give thanks for the good things we enjoy for

we are very blessed. We should even give thanks for some bad things. If we are tempted but we do not sin, we become stronger. When we are sick, we appreciate our health. When we have bad days, we appreciate the good days. In all things, we must give thanks to God.

We can only approach the Father through Jesus; therefore, we must do all things in His name.



## Just A Little Boy

Author Unknown

He was just a little boy, out on a week's first day.  
He was headed home from Sunday school and dawdling on the way.  
He scuffed his shoes into the grass; he found a caterpillar.  
He found a fluffy milkweed pod and blew out all the "filler."  
A bird's nest in a tree overhead, so wisely placed on high.  
Was just another wonder that caught his eager eye.

A neighbor watched his zigzag course and hailed him from the lawn;  
Asked him where he'd been that day and what was going on.  
"I've been to Bible school," he said and turned a piece of sod.  
He picked up a wiggly worm replying, "I've learned a lot of God."  
"M'm very fine way," the neighbor said, "for a boy to spend his time.  
If you can tell me where God is, I'll give you a brand new dime."  
Quick as a flash the answer came; nor were his accents faint.  
"I'll give you a dollar, mister, if you can tell me where God ain't."

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I hope you enjoyed this issue of *Godly Youth*. If you have ideas for articles or questions you want to ask, you can email me at [rhodes.davis@comcast.net](mailto:rhodes.davis@comcast.net) or write to the address below.

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A SPECIAL NEWSLETTER  
JUST FOR YOU!

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