

Introduction: If I'm forgiven, why should I still suffer?

David, though close to God and called “a man after God’s own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14), experienced severe consequences due to sin. He repented deeply (Psalm 51) and was forgiven (2 Samuel 12:13). Yet consequences followed: family dysfunction, rebellion, bloodshed (2 Samuel 12:10–12). This raises key questions for all believers: *If I’m forgiven, why do I still suffer consequences?* This sermon explores three major spiritual truths to help us understand this topic.

Point 1: God Has Delegated Authority

- God gives humans dominion (Psalm 8:4–6; Psalm 115:16); He allows their choices to carry real impact. This explains why evil isn’t always stopped—God respects human free will.

Point 2: Delayed Judgment

- Final justice comes on Judgment Day, not now (2 Peter 3:9; Matthew 13:24–30). God delays judgment to allow more people to repent (John 5:22 & John 12:47–48).

Point 3: The Devil is Active, but Christ Has Overcome

- Satan deceives and disrupts (Genesis 3; Luke 4:5–7).
- Jesus defeated Satan at the cross (John 12:31; Colossians 2:15), but the devil still seeks influence (Ephesians 4:27).
- Believers are empowered to resist and overcome through Christ (Matthew 28:18).

Conclusion & Life Applications

- **Understand the spiritual dynamics:** Delegated authority, delayed judgment, and spiritual warfare explain ongoing troubles.
- **Repent and stay close to God:** Like David in Psalm 51, genuine repentance opens the door to mercy and ensures eternity with God, and victory in the midst of trouble.
- **Live victoriously:** Shine in the darkness (Matthew 5:14–16), resist the devil, and cling to eternal hope (Romans 8:18–28).

Questions - Pick any 3 questions from below...

1. What stood out to you most from David’s story? Why?
2. Have you ever seen how someone’s choices—good or bad—affected you or others around you? What did you learn?
3. What does it look like to shine God’s light in the middle of hard or painful situations?
4. What are some ways we can resist the devil in everyday life?
5. How does knowing God is with us in our struggles give you hope?
6. How can we encourage each other to shine God’s light in difficult situations?