



# We. God. Covid.

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Eternally Speaking Now

*"But as for you, you meant **evil** against me; but **God** meant it for **good**, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to **save** many people **alive**." Genesis 50:20*

Our family got Covid-19.  
This is our story.

On the day of our first positive Covid test result, I was filled with a holy determination to use this time of quarantine to seek the Lord for personal growth. As I look back now, I can see it was the Holy Spirit calling us to enter into an encounter that would change our family forever.

After I posted a prayer request, a friend who'd seen it called me right away. The Lord had given her a word, and she believed it was for us. The word was **reprieve**, and it was accompanied by this verse:

*"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are **evil**. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is."  
Ephesians 5:15-16*

After we hung up, I revisited this Scripture then looked up the definition of **reprieve**. Online dictionary meanings include:

*"An official order that **stops** or delays the **punishment**, especially by death, or a prisoner."*

*"To **relieve** temporarily from any **evil**."*

*"A reprieve is a break in or **cancellation** of a **painful** or otherwise **lousy** situation."*

As I discovered these definitions, I had to admit I was puzzled. Things weren't clear. What exactly did this mean? Was this **good** or **bad**? The reference to *temporary* relief or *delay* of punishment was not comforting. Yet, I liked the idea of **halting adversity** and **counteracting affliction**.

Whatever it meant, I was intrigued,  
and I knew in my spirit that it was from the Lord.

Meanwhile, parallel to all of this, before Covid hit us, Robin was about to finish his sermon series on prayer. His next sermon was going to be entitled, *When God Says No*. In the midst of **sickness**, missing church, and wrestling with unanswered prayer, we found ourselves discussing several of life's mysteries that haunt every generation of Christians:

Our family prays through Psalm 91 almost every day.

We make the Lord our refuge.

He is our dwelling place!

Then why did **evil** befall us and this **plague** come to us?

Why didn't God **protect** us from this?

We submit to God, and we resist the devil. Daily.

Why didn't the devil flee, like Scripture promises?

Did God bring this upon us? Had we done something **wrong**?

I am thankful the Lord rushed in quickly to respond. He answered our questions and even provided Robin with what to share in his next sermon. Jesus did this by surrounding us with a repeated theme: **God delivers His people from evil.**

Here's how it played out.

Over the course of only a few days, these things happened:

- \* I had a dream involving a snake, which typically symbolizes **evil**. In the dream, I was **spared** from its **attack**.
- \* In the middle of the night, as I got up to spend time with Jesus, I could think of nothing to say other than the Lord's Prayer. So, I prayed through the verses, suddenly smiling as I reached the end, reciting, *"...And lead us not into temptation, but **deliver** us from **evil**, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen."*
- \* The next morning, we decided to watch a sermon on Christian TV. As we tuned in, we discovered the entire message was about The Lord's Prayer, with powerful reference to God **delivering** us from **evil**.
- \* At this point, clearly perceiving this theme from the Holy Spirit, the worship song that says, "You take what the enemy meant for **evil**, and You turn it for **good**" started playing through my mind. It became so frequent, that I either sang or spoke it aloud at every turn. After texting it as a prayer request to a friend, I flipped on the Christian TV channel for a few minutes before heading to bed. What song was being sung by the man on our screen? *"You take what the enemy meant for **evil**, and You turn it for **good**."*

***Suddenly, everything became clear:***

*In God's sovereignty  
and for reasons we could not yet discern,  
we got Covid.*

*The Lord would use this virus as a **reprieve**:  
"to stop a punishment, relieve us from an evil, and cancel a painful or  
otherwise lousy situation."*

*The very **evil** the enemy intended for us  
would instead be used by God for our **advantage**.  
I didn't know how this would occur,  
but the Holy Spirit filled me with such faith,  
that I just knew He would do it.*

Then things got **worse**.

My husband was hospitalized.

The virus had reached his lungs, and he had pneumonia.

I was a **mess**. All I could think about was Robin being admitted to the hospital wing where Covid deaths occur daily. That night I prayed for hours and barely slept.

Had we heard the Lord correctly?  
Would He indeed **rescue** us from **calamity**?  
*What would that look like?*  
By God's grace, we didn't have to wait long to see.

The next day, Robin called with shocking news: in the process of running standard blood tests, they had discovered dangerously high sugar numbers. *He has Diabetes (Type 2)*. We had no idea! With the diagnosis, the doctor had declared,

*"Your life has been **spared**.  
If you hadn't come in with Covid, you surely would have had a stroke or  
heart attack at some point this year."*

God used the virus and Robin's hospitalization to **save** his life.  
Covid was a **reprieve**, and the Lord **freed** us from a **tragedy** that  
would have come to pass, had He not **nullified** it.

## CHALLENGE

When my husband walked out of the Covid hospital ward four days later, the nurse told him he had never seen anyone exit by walking on their own. All other patients had either been wheeled out or carried in a body bag.

This experience has been sobering and eye-opening. It's been **miserable, painful, and scary**. I've personally had to go to the emergency room three times in 16 days. Not fun. Lingering and debilitating symptoms of the virus persist, and we aren't yet through this process. But we **love** Jesus, so we cling to His promises.

*"And we know that all things work together for **good** to those who **love** God, to those who are called according to His purpose."  
Romans 8:28*

Romans 8:28 is one of the coolest truths. No matter what the enemy shoves into our lives, no matter what **woe** wanders into our homes, God will use it for our **benefit** if we **love** Him. Period. His word says so.

The Lord IS truth.  
He cannot lie.  
Therefore, His Word is reliable.  
(Numbers 23:19, Hebrews 6:18, Titus 1:2)

Am I excited my husband has diabetes? Of course not. He has a challenging road ahead of him. Do I realize many (and even some who **love** God) have died from Covid? Unfortunately, yes. I'm not about to say I've got everything figured out, but I do know that everyone's journey is different, and Jesus *always* meets us in the midst. He is the author of life, and He knows the day of our death.

The Lord's **goodness** and **deliverance** are for *every* situation and for *all* who **love** Him, however He may work things. I can't explain it, but

somehow He does His Word. (Jeremiah 1:12) *Please keep seeking and trusting in Him.*

When our family got Covid, we didn't want it. We didn't invite it. In fact, we'd been rebuking and refusing it. Yet, it still **invaded** our bodies. Because we are surrendered to Christ and because we **love** Him, He promised to take it and use it for our **benefit**. And He did.

We. **God**. Covid.  
**Good.**

My sister recently asked, "Would you go through this all over again, knowing what it produced?" Yup, I would. It's worth it if God's goodness is glorified. Feel free to share our story if you know others to whom it would minister.

***Unanswered Prayer: When God Says No (includes Rob's Covid-19 Miracle Testimony)***

*My favorite worship song this month:*

**"Goodness of God"**

**Flashback: Read "Best Ever," written May 2020**



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