

***“Repay Insult with Love” by
Brother Sam Chen, a devotion
given at the Wednesday night
Prayer Meeting, Oct. 26, 2016***

1 Peter 3:9

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Love for God and love for other people is summed up in Peter’s first epistle. After talking about the need for unity, brotherly love, sympathy and compassion for other people, Peter urged believers not to repay evil for evil or to respond to an insult with an insult. Our response is to bless those who do evil or insult us. We are called to do so, so we can inherit a blessing from God.

During my workdays I often encounter unfair treatment from people above me. Sometimes even relatives and friends abuse us. At work I was asked by my supervisor to do him “favors” - doing things often beyond my work requirements or hours. They abused their position. Should I close my eyes and ignore this abuse of power and suffer the hurt and frustration inside? It is in our human nature to retaliate for such treatment. On a moral human level, good is responded with good and evil with evil.

But, as Christians we are called to love our enemies. Before Peter wrote the epistles, he was full of himself and his own abilities but he changed after he put his trust completely in Jesus Christ and was filled with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

If we depend on our own strength we will not be able to do what God commands us to do in 1 Peter 3:9. A man may be able to lift a load double his body weight, but can he pull himself up by his own hair? Galatians 5:22-23 states “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control”. To attain the fruit of the Holy Spirit and to change our retaliation human nature, we need to be like Peter – put our trust completely in Jesus Christ and submit to the Holy Spirit.