



Daily Verse and Comment

Proverbs 8:13

(13) To fear the LORD is to hate evil;
I hate pride and arrogance,
evil behavior and perverse speech.

New International Version

The four examples of evil in [Proverbs 8:13](#), which *always* end up doing harm, were manifested in [Satan](#), and all of his children continue to exhibit them (see [John 8:38](#), 41, 44). A progression is shown: Pride and arrogance are conditions of the heart, which is where it all starts. Where there is pride in the heart, it will come out in "the evil way," that is in *action*.

Evil also emerges in words, though it may not always be obvious. [Jesus](#) cautions in [Matthew 12:34](#), "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." When evil resides in the heart, it will be exposed in *perverse* speech, language contrary to the truth of [God](#) and to [love](#). [James 3:8](#) declares that "no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." He also says, "If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man" ([James 3:2](#)). We can only reach that perfection with God's intervention and help, which, thankfully, we have.

The apostle Paul essentially says that the foundation of good works—particularly within the church of God—is humility or lowliness:

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with [longsuffering](#), bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of [peace](#). ([Ephesians 4:1-3](#))

However, if works are done with pride or arrogance, or for the sake of appearance rather than truth and righteousness, they will cause harm. They may also produce some good, but the account of the Two Trees in the Garden of Eden teaches that, in the context of eternity, a mixture of good and evil is really only evil.

— David C. Grabbe

To learn more, see:
[Hating Evil, Fearing God](#)

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[Pride and Arrogance as Evil](#)

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