

# How Christians Should Respond To Violence And Darkness

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Senior Pastor, Chad Moore



## Introduction

### 5 Ways Christians Should Respond To Violence And Darkness

#### 1. Begin with prayer instead of our own wisdom.

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. **Ephesians 6:18***

*See also James 1:5, Philippians 4:6-7, Matthew 7:7-8*

#### 2. Know the real enemies instead of who we think they are.

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. **Ephesians 6:10-12***

#### 3. Channel your righteous anger in productive ways rather than destructive ways.

*"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry. **Ephesians 4:26***

#### 4. Trust what the enemy means for evil, God will use for good and His sovereign purposes.

*But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. <sup>21</sup> So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them. **Genesis 50:19-21***

#### 5. Grieve with hope knowing Heaven is our home.

*<sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, **so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.** <sup>14</sup> For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. <sup>15</sup> According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words. **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18***