

"Puny Evil":

Read Genesis 4:7

Cain killed his brother Abel out of jealousy over God's favor of Abel's sacrifice. God's response, in part, is " . . . sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." (NKJV) The word "rule" here is one that carries, yes, great power and responsibility as we deal with temptation. This was God's way of telling Cain he should rule over the evil within his life. The New American Standard Version says that sin is "crouching at the door," which indeed views sin in action as a predator. Yet, we can still rule over it. God affirms that such rule is possible if only Cain would serve God as he should (by offering the first-fruits of his labor among his crops, and it can be inferred, by living his life comprehensively according to God's will for him). Temptation can seem powerful and makes persuasive arguments for us to depart from God's will, and we can choose not to rule over evil and embrace it all too easily. We can, perhaps, even live prosperous lives following some extent of Cain's example, but this world is designed to be all too short with the dark end of death waiting for us if we don't learn from Cain's sins. So, at least to a great degree, how is it we can and should rule over sin, over evil? By living God's will - being obedient, willing to learn, change, and grow according to His plan for our lives.