

Title: "Being Close to Jesus is What Keeps us From Evil"

May 11, 2026

Greetings all,

I recently got a fun Immanuel Approach story from someone in one of my mentoring groups. Thought an excerpt from their story would bless the rest of you. And to clarify context: This story is not about an occult activity with tarot cards, but rather just a card game with a deck of regular playing cards. (The author grew up in a church culture that believed any game involving a deck of playing cards was sinful/dangerous.) Shared with permission.

"The memory Jesus brought to mind was of me playing a game of cards with my aunt and uncle. For some reason it was just my sister and I at their house, and they invited us to play that game with them, which we did, but afterwards I felt defiled by those cards. I remembered that some people thought that even just the playing cards themselves were inherently evil.

I invited Jesus into that memory too. I noticed a bit of resistance to having Jesus there, but I kept asking him about it. What came to mind were the verses from 1 Timothy about evil spirits telling people to abstain from marriage and certain foods that God created to be eaten. And also the verse about people saying "don't touch, don't taste, don't handle", but it wasn't from God. Jesus showed me that he could protect me, but the evil wasn't dwelling in the cards waiting to jump out and hurt me if I played with them. The evil was surrounding me from the outside and trying to get me to think that playing cards was bad. Jesus said basically that evil is all around, and the only way to be safe from evil is to be close to Him. Being close to Jesus is what keeps us from evil, not being sure never to play a game that involves a deck of cards."

Blessings,

Dr. Lehman/Karl

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