



The Lord's Prayer – 4

Lead us not into Temptation

Message by Andrew Kulasingham, 5th May 2019

Scripture Readings: Matthew 6:13 (NLT)

And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.

A two-fold petition for protection

Don't let us yield to temptation and Deliver us from the evil one

- Protection from Temptation

The first of the requests is for protection in the area of temptation. The Greek is *peirasmos* which means to test, learn to know by experience, to ascertain how one will behave, to entice one to fall.

- Protection from evil (more specifically the evil one)

The second part of the prayer seems to assume that if one is in the midst of temptation, the prayer is a request to be protected from the evil one.

The word *ponēros* carries with it the meaning wicked, evil.

It is the derivative of the root word for pain and poverty. (Taking the preceding article “*tou*” as a personal noun, it should be read “the evil one” – as in most recent translations NKJV, NLT and NIV)

“*Do not lead us*” (NKJV) or “*don't let us yield*”(NLT)?

- Does God tempt us?

James 1:13-14 - **Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.**

God does not tempt us. It's contrary to his nature.

- Didn't God “lead” Jesus into temptation?

Matthew 4:1 - **Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.**

The Spirit led Jesus to the wilderness; the devil tempted Jesus.

Mark 14:38 - **Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**

1 Peter 5:8 - **Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.**

The devil looks for every opportunity to tempt us away from God

- What does temptation accomplish?

James 1:12 - **Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.**

Luke 22:28-29 - **“But you are those who have continued with Me in My Trials (peirasmos). And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me,”**

A Christian is encouraged to endure temptation to “become approved” to receive the crown of life. So with these thoughts at the back of our minds, let’s revisit the prayer.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

1. It’s a prayer for protection from self

Spurgeon suggested that the tone is one of “A humble self-distrust, a holy fear, a sacred self-suspicion, a dread of contact with sin in any degree.”

- I don’t trust myself, Lord. So every time I enter into a place of temptation, would you please let me not yield to it.

1 Corinthians 10:13 - **No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.**

If I am to take the liberty to personalise this passage in response to the above cry:

Temptation will meet you as it does with everyone. But i will be faithful to you my child. I will not allow the temptation to overwhelm you. I will always make a way for you to escape all you temptations.

2. It’s a prayer for protection from the evil one

The second line of the prayer recognises another player in all this. He is opportunistic and at the most vulnerable place of pain and poverty, he seeks to exert wickedness and evil.

Lord, when I am in the most vulnerable place of pain, suffering and anguish, please protect me from the schemes of the evil one – lest I lose my way, lest I stray away from your loving embrace.

1 John 2:14b - **I have written to you who are young in the faith because you are strong. God’s word lives in your hearts, and you have won your battle with the evil one.**

Do not fear, my child, I have and will continue to make you strong. As you continue to let my words dwell in your heart, I will give you the victory over the evil one.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

- protection from my vulnerable self
- protection from the evil one

Always remember this when facing temptation:

- God does not tempt us. It's contrary to his nature.
- The devil looks for every opportunity to tempt us away from God.
Stay close to the Lord and his Word.
- A Christian is encouraged to endure temptation, to “become approved” and to receive the crown of life. Keep hope alive. This too shall pass.