

**Matthew 6:13:** And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**Intro:** We come to the 6<sup>th</sup> petition; In these last 3 petitions, we are asking our Father for everything we need! Love!

We need protection and prevention from falling into sin! The 5<sup>th</sup> petition: forgive us our debts . . .

We sin daily, we need forgiveness daily. But born again people hate sin, fight sin, turn from sin, & gain victory!

**JMac:** If you are a true, genuine Christian, you will be just as concerned about avoiding your future sins as you are about the forgiveness of your past sins.

Evil is great in the world; temptations: dangerous! Adam & Eve (no sin nature & no sin in world) disobeyed God Noah, the righteous, blameless man God chose to start all over with, got drunk.

Abraham (the man of faith) lied; Jacob was deceitful; Moses murdered and failed to regard God as holy.

David (the man after God's own heart) raped Bathsheba and then murdered her husband.

Jonah (God's prophet) hated the Ninevites and rejected God's calling to preach, grace, mercy, and forgiveness.

All of Jesus' chosen disciples fled from His side in His greatest hour of need.

Peter denied Jesus; Thomas doubted after Jesus rose from the dead.

Peter's conduct (after Pentecost!) was not in step with the truth of the Gospel (rebuked by Paul).

Josh Harris; Ravi Zacharias; Personal friends: turned from God; Lead us not into temptation; deliver us from evil!

### **1. God Has Ordained That Temptations Will Come**

**WLC 195:** Acknowledging, that the most wise, righteous, and gracious God, for [various] holy and just ends, may so order things, that we may be assaulted, [frustrated], and for a time led captive by temptations

**Matthew 18:7:** Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come

### **2. God Never Tempts Anyone**

**James 1:13-14:** Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. <sup>14</sup> But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

**God did lead Jesus into the place of temptation, but He Himself did not tempt Jesus: Matthew 4:1:** Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

**Sinclair Ferguson:** The devil tempted him. But even in that context, Jesus was led by God's Spirit. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that Jesus teaching us here to pray that we will be protected from such an experience.

### **3. God Does Test His People**

- **Genesis 22:1:** After these things God tested Abraham

- **John 21:17:** He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

- **Exodus 16:4:** the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, & the people shall go out & gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not."

- **Luke 22:31-32:** Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, <sup>32</sup> but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.

**Spurgeon:** The trial of our faith usually comes in the form of affliction. Our jealous Lover uses tests to see if He has our heart. You say, "Lord Jesus, I love you. You are my best Beloved." "Well," says the heavenly Lover, "if it is so, then your precious child will become sick and die. What will you say then?" If you are truthful in what you have said concerning your supreme love for Jesus, you will give up your darling at His call and say, "The LORD

gave, & the LORD has taken away, blessed be the name of the LORD." The more He loves you, the more He will test you. Sometimes He says, "Good woman, I shall take away your husband, on whom you lean, that you may lean the more on Me." I remember Samuel Rutherford, writing to a lady who had lost five children & her husband said, "Oh, how Christ must love you! He would take every bit of your heart to Himself. He would not permit you to reserve any of your soul for any earthly thing." Can we stand that test? Can we let all go for His sake?

In this sixth petition, we are asking God not to lead us into any temptations or tests such that we fail and sin!

#### **4. The World, The Flesh, And The Devil Are Powerfully Ready To Lead Us From God And Into Sin**

**a. The World: 1 John 2:15-16:** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world - the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions - is not from the Father but is from the world.

**b. The Flesh: Galatians 5:16-17:** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

**c. The Devil: 1 Peter 5:8:** Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

#### **5. We Are Weak And Unable To Conquer Temptation On Our Own**

We, even after the pardon of our sins, by reason of our corruption, weakness, & [lack] of watchfulness, are not only subject to be tempted, & [prone] to expose ourselves unto temptations, but also of ourselves unable & unwilling to resist them, to recover out of them, & to improve them; & worthy to be left under the power of them

**a. Because we still battle with the old man: We pray!**

**b. Because we are prone to expose ourselves to temptations: We pray!**

**c. Because we are weak and unable to conquer temptations on our own: We pray!**

**d. Because we deserve to be left under temptation's power: We pray!**

#### **6. We Pray That God Would So Overrule The World And All In It, Subdue The Flesh, And Restrain Satan So That We Won't Be Tempted To Sin**

**Matt 26:41:** Watch & pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak  
**Galatians 6:1:** Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

**a. May our Father overrule the world and all that's in it so that we won't be tempted to sin:** This is a prayer that our Father would keep the temptations of the world from us.

**b. May our Father subdue our own flesh so that we won't be tempted to sin:** This is a prayer that our Father would so work in our hearts that we aren't tempted to do anything that is contrary to God's will and Word.

**c. May our Father restrain Satan from tempting us to sin:** This is a prayer for God to stop Satan from all of his crafty and deceitful ways of tempting us.

We don't even want to get near temptation! How far can we go before it's sin? How close can we get? Wrong!

**Beeke:** Story of old man who lived on top of mountain and had to find a driver to take his daughter to school.

### **7. We Pray That God Would Bless The Means Of Grace So That We Won't Be Tempted To Sin**

Make Church effective! Make relationships effective! Bible reading; prayer; accountability; self denial – effective!

### **8. We Pray That God Would Cause Us To Be Watchful And Participate In The Means Of Grace So That We Won't Be Tempted To Sin**

**a. The Fellowship Of The Church: Hebrews 10:23-25:** Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

**b. The Word Of God: John 15:3:** Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Jesus fought temptation with the written Word of God: “It is written!”; The Word is the Sword of the Spirit!

**c. Prayer:** This very prayer! Communion with God! **Jesus:** Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation.

**Of Sanctification:** We believe that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of His holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; & that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence & power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer & Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means – especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, & prayer.

### **9. We Pray That If We Are Tempted, That By God's Spirit We Would Be Powerfully Supported And Enabled To Stand Victorious In The Hour Of Temptation**

**1 Corinthians 10:13-14:** No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. <sup>14</sup> Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

**2 Timothy 4:18:** The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Spurgeon:** What settings are you in when you fall [into sin]? Avoid them.

What props [helps] do you have that support your sin? Eliminate them.

What people are you usually with [when you sin]? Avoid them.

There are two equally damning lies Satan wants us to believe: 1) Just once won't hurt.

2) Now that you have ruined your life, you are beyond God's use, and might as well enjoy sinning.

Learn to say no. It will be of more use than to be able to read Latin.

### **10. We Pray That If We Fall Into Sin, That We Would Repent And Grow In Holiness And In The Likeness Of Jesus Christ**

We pray that when fallen, we would be raised again and recovered out of it, and have a sanctified use and improvement thereof: that our sanctification and salvation may be perfected, Satan trodden under our feet, and we fully freed from sin, temptation, and all evil, forever.

**1 Thessalonians 5:23:** Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **11. We Pray This Request Because We Want Our Father's Fellowship, Presence, And Smile**

**Lloyd-Jones:** We are asking that we should never be led into a situation where we are liable to be tempted by Satan. It does not mean that we are dictating to God what He shall or shall not do. God does test His children, and we must never presume to tell God what He is or is not to do. He knows that we need much training in our preparation for glory. But though it does not mean that we are to dictate to God, it does mean that we may request of Him that, if it be in accordance with His holy will, He should not lead us into positions where we can be so

easily tempted, and where we are liable to fall. It means that we should request Him to preserve us from this, and not to lead us in this way.

This is what our Lord meant when He said to His disciples at the end, 'Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation'. There are situations which will be dangerous to you; watch and pray, always be on guard lest you fall into temptation. And coupled with that is this other aspect of the petition, that we pray to be delivered from evil. Some would say 'from the evil one', but I think that limits the meaning, for 'evil' here includes not only Satan but evil in every shape and form. It certainly includes Satan; we need to be delivered from him and his wiles. But there is evil also in our hearts, so we need to be delivered from that, and from the evil in the world as well. We need to be delivered from it all. It is a great and much needed request.

Why should we ask that we may be kept from evil? For the great and wonderful reason that our fellowship with God may never be broken. If a man merely wants to be holy as such, there is something wrong with him. Our supreme desire should be to have a right relationship with God, to know Him, to have uninterrupted fellowship and communion with Him. That is why we pray this prayer, that nothing may come between us and the brightness and the radiance and the glory of our Father which is in heaven. 'Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.'

**Jesus Christ was led into temptation and delivered over to evil and the evil one so that we might be saved! His perfect fellowship with His Father was broken (He was forsaken) so that we might never be forsaken!**

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

- **Hebrews 2:17-18:** For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

- **Hebrews 4:15:** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

**Klaas Schilder:** But the forsaking of God is also positive. God is directly sending the torments of hell against Christ . . . It is God who looses the devils against Him . . . The Spirit of Christ, as it battles against the forces of hell for three hours, sees the devils rising up against Him, & as He sees it, God is taking the role of the supervisor in the arena, & it is God who releases the lions, the bulls & goats & cattle of Bashan, & it is God who releases the dogs (Psalm 22) against the great martyr with an agonizing calmness. It is God who lifts the doors of the cages . . . Just as the martyrs in the arena saw the man who opened the doors of the cages, & maintained the supervision from that point on, so the Saviour saw God in His arena . . . He released the Dragon . . . the son, the shepherd is being destroyed. Listen to the summons of the Lord of heaven: sword, awake thou against my shepherd. **(And He Rose!)**

**John 17:15:** I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.

Christ Was Led Into Temptation  
Sent To Evil – Our Damnation  
Tempted, Tried For Our Salvation  
Conquered Satan's Condemnation  
Took God's Wrath Propitiation  
Died Alone In Pain Sensation  
Rose Alive Our Liberation  
Death Is Dead New Life Elation  
Faith Alone Justification  
Trust Him Now From Every Nation  
We Are His The New Creation  
Through His Spirit Sanctification  
We're His Children Congregation  
Father Lead Us From Temptation!