

Prayer: part 5

Matthew 6:13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Do not lead us into temptation

- We are not specifically praying against God tempting us with sin or evil.
 - **James 1:13–15** 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. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.
- This is a mere Hebraism: God is said to do a thing which he only permits or suffers to be done. (Adam Clarke)
- So what we are really praying is that God keep us from being tempted.
- This is specifically about temptation of our own doing. Things we know we should avoid, or things that prevent us from living according to the righteousness that God gave to us.

It makes ZERO sense to pray for God to keep you from temptation and then put yourself in places that tempt you to sin.

- Jesus had some strong words about avoiding sin
- **Matthew 5:29–30** If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

A pastor of a very large church said “We’re going to go to the edge on this. We’re going to do everything short of sin.”

But God said to pursue holiness

- **1 Timothy 6:11** But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.
- And He gave us the ability to do that
- **Galatians 5:16** I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
- **1 John 3:8** He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

In the Garden, Jesus told His disciples to pray against temptation

- **Luke 22:40** When He came to the place, He said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.”

Our prayer is that God will keep us from the things of this world that tempt us to leave Him, or to compromise our faith.

We are taught to pray this because without God, we are too weak to avoid temptation.

- **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*.
- In fact, back in the garden after Jesus told His disciples to pray against entering into temptation, they fell asleep. When Jesus found them He said:
 - **Luke 22:46** Then He said to them, “Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation.”
 - But it all went down before they could pray and guess what? They all abandoned Him and entered into temptation.

Deliver us from the evil one

- There is debate on whether this should be evil one, or just evil. That has to do with the Genitive case use of the word evil.
- Either way doesn't matter. We want to be delivered from evil.

Tactics of the enemy

- **John 10:10** The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.
- **John 8:44** You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.
- Deception – Biggest tactic of all!!!
- Persistence (Samson and Delilah, Potiphers Wife, Jesus in the Wilderness, etc...)
- Slander and Gossip (attack through other people) **Ephesians 6:12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

And the Bible has instruction on how not to be overcome by evil, or the evil one:

- **Ephesians 6:10–11** Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
- **James 4:7** Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
 - Resist = active, not passive resistance
- **Romans 12:21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

But ultimately it is God that defeats our enemies, so we pray for our Father to deliver us from the evil.

- **Psalm 91:1–4** He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. ² I will say of the LORD, “*He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.*” ³ Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler *And* from the perilous pestilence. ⁴ He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth *shall be your* shield and buckler.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

- Some translations do not include this (NLT, ESV and more).
- This simply has to do with which text the Bible was translated from. Older texts tend to have more missing parts. The KJV and NKJV come from Textus Receptus which is newer than other texts. Most Biblical texts are worn, damaged and have missing parts and the translators use multiple manuscripts to put it all back together. Decisions must be made.

This benediction to the prayer is a praise declaration of what we have been praying for:

Yours is the Kingdom

This takes us back to the beginning of the prayer. What are we praying for? His Kingdom on earth. His will to be done. This is all about desiring His Kingdom. And it all belongs to God.

This end declaration is that everything belongs to Him. And it is His Kingdom, His rule and reign and resources that we want and need.

Yours is the Power

This is a declaration that it is only by God’s power that anything is done.

This is humility. We cannot make this happen. It is only by His power that it is done. And that He has all power to do it.

We are desperate. He is all sufficient.

Yours is the Glory

Because it is God's Kingdom, His will, His purposes we are seeking. And it is by His power, His resources, His wisdom that it is done, then it can only be for His glory.

All glory belongs to God for answered prayer. And God alone. It is He that saves. He that provides. He that heals. We give Him the glory that He is due.

Declarations are powerful. They are faith statements. Ending a prayer with declaring who God is, how powerful He is and how all glory belongs to Him is a powerful way to end a prayer time.