

Temptation's Test 2018-08-05

Matthew 6:9-13

Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Matthew 6:13.....Augustine story after conversion.

Sovereign God allows trials, but Satan tempts with evil not God. Matthew 6:13a, James 1:13

- Why would Jesus tell us to ask God not to do what He would never do anyway? Peirasmos (temptation) neutral in Greek, no connotation of good or evil.

- Root meaning is testing or proving or trial.
 - Any legitimate trial/test, possibility to pass/fail, succeed/not succeed.

Satan uses Lord's trials designed for our good (prove/develop our faith & bring to maturity) to tempt us to think/act sinfully. Matthew 18:7, James 1:2-4, 14-15, 1 Corinthians 10:13

- Poverty, prosperity, job loss, sickness, death, etc.
- Do not fear such tests: God never allows trial that's more than you can handle by depending upon His grace & power.
 - He knows which, how many/severe each Christian can endure.
- Jesus' intention in trials reason this not prayer for Him to withhold trials.
 - Aramaic means: "Not sin when tested" - rather than "Not be tested"

Prayer based on self-distrust and desire to escape/avoid temptation rather than having to defeat it. Matthew 6:12-13a, 2 Timothy 2:22, Mark 14:38

- Not even want possibility to sin after just asked forgiveness for sin.
 - True Christian does not seek license, abuse His love/forgiveness, but holiness.
- This a positive/pro-active prayer for sanctification/holiness.
 - Desires joy of being in Jesus over pleasures of sin. He more satisfying.

Asking to be kept from overwhelming temptation to sin but if fall, rescued from it.

- All Christians struggle with temptation from devil (Ephesians. 6:12), world, flesh (Romans 7:23). 1 Peter 5:8, John 15:19, Galatians. 5:17
 - God never allows trial that's more than you can handle by depending upon His grace & power.

- Fall into sin because resist God's gracious assistance/warnings.

Jesus provided the victory over temptations for all Christians when He conquered Satan and broke the power of sin over us. Romans 6:6-7, 14, 1 John 4:4, Ephesians 6:16-17

- Holy Spirit indwells all Christians so we can resist temptation in His power.
- Have same "tools" Jesus used to overcome temptation: prayer, Word, submit and surrender to Father's will (Gethsemane). Luke 22:42, Psalm 119:11,
 - Lord given everything needed to resist and be victorious over temptation.

God specifically delivers individual Christians by giving them alertness to recognize “lure”, wisdom to avoid, grace to conquer. James 1:14, 2 Corinthians 10:5, Romans 12:2, Proverbs 6:27

- Sin starts in thoughts so take captive and renew mind with the Word.
- Know personal weaknesses and stay away from “tempting” situations.
 - Prayer to lead us past all enemies lures.
 - Do not go near fire with gunpowder. Get rid of gunpowder!
- If tempted FLEE by taking the exit God provides. James 4:7, 1 Corinthians 10:12-13

Resist devil, he will flee and the trial never becomes an irresistible temptation

- This beautiful pro-active prayer for holiness claims promise in 1 Corinthians 10:13
 - Recognize Satan/sin power, affirm own weakness and plead for God’s protection and deliverance. Psalm 50:15
 - Know Jesus never allow temptation that with His grace you can’t resist.

There is a legend that Augustine, accosted on the street by a former mistress shortly after his conversion, turned and walked in the opposite direction. Surprised, the woman cried out, "Augustine, it is I."

But Augustine, proceeding on his way, cried back to her, "Yes, but it is not I." What he meant was that there was a new Augustine, and that this new Augustine would avoid the very territory and appearance of evil.