

TEMPTATION AND DELIVERANCE FROM EVIL

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

Individuals or groups may enjoy working through this content while having fellowship at home, while away on summer vacation, or in a Connect Group. We'll provide updated content from week to week this summer.

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

SUMMARY

This section of the Lord's Prayer invites us to recognize our constant need for God's guidance and protection in the face of temptation and evil. We are reminded of the reality of spiritual warfare and our reliance on God to navigate daily trials and temptations. This prayer is a call to acknowledge our weakness, embrace the power of God's grace, and trust in His deliverance. It underscores the necessity of living in dependence on God's strength and the importance of prayer in the life of a believer.

We exist to help connect **Jesus to people, people to community, and community to God's mission**. Here are a few insights about how The Lord's Prayer connects to our mission as a church. Let's discuss this text and the process of prayer.

JESUS TO PEOPLE

When Jesus taught his followers to pray, "lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil", it's not a prayer born out of a lack of experience. Jesus himself was tempted by Satan in a wilderness experience. He was challenged as to where his genuine allegiance rested. Jesus would go on to be tried and tested again in the Garden of Gethsemane, where he would rightly pray: Not my will but your will be done. Through the cross, burial, resurrection, and ascension, Jesus possesses victory over sin and evil and His ongoing work as our protector and guide. By connecting people to Jesus, we help them understand the significance of His triumph over the evil one and how they can rely on His strength in their battles against temptation.

...PEOPLE TO COMMUNITY...

Praying for deliverance from evil and temptation fosters a vigilant, supportive community rooted in God's truth. We remember that there are no singular pronouns in this prayer. We pray these words as a community and for the community of believers. It compels us to be aware of the spiritual dangers around us and to encourage one another in our walk with Christ. As we embody the protection and guidance we receive from God, we create a community that stands firm against the enemy's schemes, supporting each other in prayer and accountability.

...COMMUNITY TO MISSION

We live our lives with an awareness of an unseen realm full of spiritual realities. Our warfare is not against flesh and blood but against powers and principalities in the heavenly realm. Praying for deliverance from evil is a call to engage in God's mission of spreading His kingdom on earth. The local church, as a body of believers, is called to stand against the forces of darkness and proclaim Christ's victory to the world. By living out the values of God's kingdom—resisting temptation, embracing holiness, and relying on God's strength—we demonstrate the power of the gospel to transform lives and deliver from evil.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. What is the difference between a test and a temptation? How does understanding this difference affect your approach to trials in your life?
2. How does recognizing the reality of spiritual warfare change how you pray and live your daily life?
3. What practical steps can you take to resist temptation and rely on God's strength in times of trial?
4. How can our church better equip its members to recognize and resist the temptations they face? What role does the community play in this?
5. Reflect on when you experienced God's deliverance from a difficult situation or temptation. How did it impact your faith?
6. How can we, as a church, be more intentional about participating in God's mission to deliver others from the power of evil?
7. What practices can help us cultivate a deeper reliance on God's protection and deliverance, individually and as a community?