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Deliver Us – The Lord’s Prayer for Today

Faith doesn’t start with our needs and us; the **foundation** for faith begins with who He is. However, the **focus** of faith is upon what we legitimately need. The first three primary phrases lay the foundation and the second three gives focus to our needs.

Hallowed be Thy Name - *Reverence*
Your Kingdom Come - *Rulership*
Your Will be Done - *Release*
Give Us Today Our Daily Bread - *Provision*
Forgive Us – *Pardon*
Deliver Us - *Protection*

It’s interesting that he ends the prayer in this way because he protects from the things that want to bring about destruction in our lives.

A lot people think the Lord’s Prayer ends with “For thine is the power and the glory forever and ever.” It is in the KJV but in the NIV and in most modern translations it is not there. That’s because we now have much older and more reliable manuscripts to do English translations from than king Jimmy had in 1611 (398 years ago).

Probably was not originally taught by Jesus. It’s appropriate for us to end the prayer this way it’s just not probably originally there.

He teaches us that when we pray we need to constantly pray for our protection. He talks about two great threats in this scripture.

The first great threat is a personal vulnerability (we all have) that is wrapped up in one word: temptation.

Lead us not into temptation.

Temptation is vividly described for us in James 1. “When tempted no one should say ‘God is tempting me.’ ...dragged away”

There’s a great story out of ancient mythology about Ulysses and his sailors. They would frequent a coast as other sailors did where the Sirens lived. These were supposedly in mythology see-nymphs who could sing so beautifully their Siren songs. The beauty of theirs songs were so gripped and so compelling the sailors could not resist and they would throw themselves into the ocean to their own destruction. Once Ulysses was visiting the coast, he knew what he was in for but he wanted to hear the song. So he had wax put in the ears of all his sailors and he had himself tied to the central mast of the ship. He warned them ahead of time, “no matter how much I threaten you, no matter how

much I beg, do not untie me.” So sure enough they approached the Siren coast. His sailors could not hear the songs but Ulysses was going crazy. The more he pleaded the tighter they tied the ropes that held him. Until finally they cleared the coast and the songs could be heard any longer. The legend goes that his wisdom returned – we would say his sanity returned to him.

That’s exactly the picture of temptation. It lures and drags us and sometimes it feels irresistible. Whether it certain addictions, alcohol, drugs, behavioral patterns at home, habits at work. Those things that you know you are worse after but they drag you away. Maybe it’s a love for things. Shopping has gone too far and has become an addiction. Maybe it’s eating too much. Maybe it’s going past the bounds of moderation that’s called for in Christian living. Maybe it’s modesty. Dressing and acting immodestly. Maybe it’s a sexual sin.

No matter what it maybe, we all have this lure that is dragging us away.

Temptation, this word Jesus uses, is even larger than this dimension of temptation (lured away). It also has the understanding of any kind of testing or trial.

For instance, in James 1:2. That word *trials* is the same word in the greek that’s used for *temptation* in the Lords prayer.

Sometimes there’s another kind of temptation that’s related to our pain. Interestingly enough, James is saying that pain is healthy for us although it’s dangerous.

It grows us up. It keeps us from being spoiled spiritual brats because it teaches us one thing: perseverance. When you have perseverance, when you stick in there despite your lack of comfort. It produces the kind of character that will get you through the things in life.

If you live by the ethic if it feels good do it, and give in to everything that entices, then you will also probably give in to the ethic that if it doesn’t feel good then I’m out of here.

Especially if God doesn’t make me feel like I want to then forget God I’m out of here. That’s not how you grow up.

In fact, it takes pain to grow. The absence of pain is dangerous.

I was reading about a guy who came over from a third world country where persecution of Christians is normal in the culture. His first impressions were not very favorable about the American church. He thought we were much concern with position and possessions instead of the kingdom. We by in large sidelined God and were absorbed in the things of this world. He would tell his Christian friends this with somewhat of a bitter attitude. After a number a months, he came back to one of his friends that he’d soundly rebuked early. He said to his friend, remember how I told you my feelings about the church in America. The guy said yea, and winced preparing himself for another rebuke. But the guy

to his surprised apologized. He said I've been here a year and I'm now worse off than any of you. He said I'm sorry for my bitterness but I was afraid of freedom.

That's another problem. When we don't have pain, freedom can absolutely lull us to sleep. Yet, when we have pain there's another temptation and that is to not go the way of perseverance.

We have the **enticement threat** of temptation and the **trial threat** of temptation. Without we don't grow up but with them there we are in danger of not learning perseverance.

That's our threat of vulnerability.

The second great threat is the tempter.

Notice how Peter describes this evil one in, 1Pet. 5:8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

You don't need to look the evil one because he is looking for you.

The bible says that there is a big predator looking to devour you. You don't have to look for him. But 1 John says 1John 3:8 He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

That's why the Lord's Prayer doesn't omit the struggle in this world because in Jesus there is a strength and s shielding against the powers of the evil one and of this world.

Martin Luther the great reformer, he so vividly understood the activity of the devil that he'd write about it. You look at A Mighty Fortress is Our God, it's staggering how he describes the work of the evil.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us:
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

He used to tell his followers that when the devil knocks on the door to your heart and he asks, "Who lives here?" He said Jesus now gets and answers the door and says "Martin Luther used to live here but now I'm living here." The devil sees the nail scared hands and the pierced side and runs.

There is a faith that is centered in Christ that can answer the door and give us that protection.

Jesus teaches us to pray for faith that answers the in Jesus name.

When he says pray “lead us not into temptation” he obviously is telling us to pray for strength. Strength against temptation and strength in the middle of testings. Some people find this verse puzzling because we just read that God doesn’t lead us into temptation and that he doesn’t want to be crushed. And yet we read that trials are good for us. So, why would we pray “lead us not into temptation” when he doesn’t lead us in the first place and secondly some of the trials are good for us?

Well, it’s not a prayer saying do not overcome me with trials and temptations which you want to do but I’m begging you not to. It doesn’t mean that. We do not need God’s help to be tempted. You don’t need any help.

This prayer is saying is don’t let me get into places it is saying when I’m lead into temptation give me strength. Let me stand up in the midst of my temptations with the strength of God.

First, when you are tempted and you don’t want to let it go and your sheer will power cant do it alone (I want to say that you have to have a will against sin), you need God’s power. Before you do something stupid, quote some Scripture. Memorize Romans 6-8. It works. “What shall say then...”

Also, there is some common sense. God’s strength doesn’t work opposite our common sense. When we pray “lead me not into temptation” it’s a prayer for wisdom. Jerry Jenkins wrote a book called Hedges. It was a book about the boundaries he set up in his marriage like he’d never go to a dinner alone with another woman without a third party there. He’d remind his wife of the vows he made to her.

When he comes home from work, he doesn’t work until the kids go to bed. Common sense things.

It may not be marital issues it could be work issues.

“Deliver Us from evil”

He is our strength and our shield. It’s amazing the Scriptures that talk about the shield. (Ps 3, Eph 6.). There are times the enemy just blast away at you and you need the shield.

There are times when we need to take up a shield of faith to combat the enemy. This is not passive but active. This shield is I know who I am in Christ who has overcome the enemy.

Discussion:

What are you asking God to deliver you from?

Closing

As we wrap up this series lets pray the Lord’s prayer together.

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’ "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen"