

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION

RIVER OF LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH

JUNE 11, 2023

THE LORD'S PRAYER – PART 18

Matthew 6

7“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9 Pray then like this:

“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 this day our daily bread,
12 and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.— ESV

Does God lead us into temptation?

- But, what about the verse about the Holy Spirit leading Jesus into temptation
 - Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. **2** After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. **3** The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” – NIV

Book of James gives clear understanding on temptation

James 1:2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, **3** because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. **4** Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. **5** If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. **6** But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. **7** That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. **8** Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do. - NIV

- The Greek word **peirasmós** can mean both *temptation* or *test* – both senses can apply *simultaneously* (depending on the context).
- The positive sense ("test") and negative sense ("temptation") are functions of the context (not merely the words themselves).

The word **temptation** can mean test or trial

- Tests come in our everyday lives
- **1 Peter 4:12** Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. **13** But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. **14** If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. **15** If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. **16** However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.
17 For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? **18** And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" **19** So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good. – NIV
 - Judgment for the believer brings refining and purification
 - Judgment for the unbeliever brings humbling and destruction

Book of James gives clear understanding on temptation

James 1:12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

- We are promised the “Crown of Life” if we persevere under the pressures of this life
 - **John 16:33** “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” - NIV

Book of James gives clear understanding on temptation

- In fact, God's grace gives us THE POWER to say NO!
 - **Titus 2:11** For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. **12** It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, **13** while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, **14** who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. - NIV

God is never the source of our temptation

James 1:13 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; **14** but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. **15** Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.- NIV

God is never the source of our temptation

- James makes it clear that God is not our tempter – He does not want us to fail
 - **1 Corinthians 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. - NIV

Temptation can take many forms/ Top Temptations

A 2011 study tracked the top temptations Americans face. The people surveyed said they struggled with the following temptations either "often" or "sometimes":

- Worrying or being anxious—60%
- Procrastinating or putting things off—60%
- Eating too much—55%
- Spending too much time on media—44%
- Being lazy—41%
- Spending more than they could afford—35%
- Gossiping about others—26%
- Being jealous or envious of others—24%
- Viewing pornography or sexually explicit material—18%
- Abusing alcohol or drugs—11%

Reported in Todd Hunter, Our Favorite Sins (Thomas Nelson, 2012), pp. 237-245

Temptation can take many forms/ Top Temptations

Some of the other temptations we face:

- *Temptation to take offense*
- *Temptation to self-pity*
- *Temptation to be passive when God is calling us to be actively involved*
- *Temptation to withdraw and take on an independent spirit*
- *Temptation to become defensive in a relationship when there is a disagreement or we are being corrected*
- *Temptation to give in to anger and rage rather than seeking the fruit of self control*
- *And the list goes on . . .*

God is the source of all things good in our lives!

James 1:16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. **17** Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. **18** He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. - NIV

Discussion & Prayer

Discussion Questions for House Church:

- What did the Holy Spirit reveal to you through the Word today?
- When you face temptation, do you feel God is with you to help you? Or, do you feel abandoned and vulnerable?
- How has Satan (or demonic forces) sought to undermine or accuse God's character or love for you in seeking to weaken you against temptation?

Prayer:

- Pray for one another!
- (If you are facing a temptation or caught in a sin that you need help with and you do not feel comfortable sharing in a House Church Meeting. Seek out a safe leader to talk and pray with)