

2023



Week Five Devotional

RECALIBRATED, NO TEMPTATION!

“Jesus Prayed.” Series



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Matthew 6:5-15 NIV

⁵“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹“This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us today our daily bread. ¹²And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. ¹⁴For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Helpful Hints to manage this devotional:

- Set aside 1 hour each day for time with God and his word.
- **Suggestion:** 30 minutes possibly in the morning, 30 minutes in the evening.
- Read, and write daily at your pace so that by the weekend you have completed the weeks devotional. The design is that you don't have to find a starting point to study, just do it. Get an accountability partner to read and study the devotional with.



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“Yield Not to Temptation”

Yield not to temptation, for yielding, is sin;
Each vict'ry will help you some other to win;
Fight manfully onward, dark passions subdue;
Look ever to Jesus, He will carry you through.

- *Refrain:* Ask the Savior to help you,
Comfort, strengthen, and keep you;
He is willing to aid you,
and He will carry you through.

Shun evil companions, bad language disdain,
God's name hold in rev'ence, nor take it in vain;
Be thoughtful and earnest, kindhearted and true;
Look ever to Jesus, He will carry you through.

Yield Not to Temptation is a hymn that was composed by the famous American hymn writer, **Horatio Richmond Palmer** in 1868. Palmer is responsible for both the words and the music of this hymn. According to Palmer, this song came instantaneously while he was studying the subject of “Theory”.

This hymn was founded upon the scripture, **James 1:12-15**

James 1:12-15 NIV

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. 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.



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Matthew 4:1-11 NIV

1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted[a] 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.” 4 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’[b]” 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’[c]” 7 Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’[d]” 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” 10 Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’[e]” 11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Luke 4:1-13 NIV

4 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 where for forty days he was tempted[a] by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. 3 The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.” 4 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’[b]” 5 The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6 And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. 7 If you worship me, it will all be yours.” 8 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’[c]” 9 The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. 10 For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; 11 they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’[d]” 12 Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’[e]” 13 When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.



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Foundational Premise: Since Jesus was tempted certainly you and I will be tempted. The sin is not in the tempting but in the yielding. We will deal with it in depth later in the devotional.

The model prayer that Jesus uses to teach the disciples upon their request has we now know **6** petitions.

3 pertaining to the Father and **3** pertaining to the Family of God.

Us...give us...forgive us...lead us.

This petition acknowledges that God is our Protector. He is our refuge, our hiding place that we can run to in all our times of temptation. **In vs 13 of Matthew 6**, Jesus is teaching us to pray into our future so that we don't find ourselves in places, positions, and paths that would stress, strain our walk with God and do damage to our witness for Christ. Putting yourself in harm's way and expecting to win only leads to disappointment and defeat. The enemy majors in tricks, traps that lure us into lying to ourselves, and lapses and failures that may be difficult to overcome.

Pastor's Point: Every temptation is **NOT** sensual, or sexual.

Every temptation is not a sin, but every sin stems from a temptation.

Every sin stems from 1 of these 3 things found in this scripture.

I John 2:16 NIV

16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.



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There is temptation and then there are “legitimate temptations.”
Everything, every situation is **NOT** necessarily a legitimate temptation.

2 things must be present for a” legitimate temptation.”

1. Desirability

We are not tempted by the same things, but all of us are tempted by SOMETHING(S)
List some things here that you are tempted by

2. Availability

This is an important component of “legitimate temptation” because if it's not available to you then it's not really a temptation.

Ex: an attractive person, item, etc is one thing, but if it is not available due to distance, the ability to purchase limits it in being a “legitimate temptation.”

Know that temptation is NECESSARY!

Why Pastor Thomas?

Temptation is necessary for these reasons:

Temptations helped shape the life and ministry of the sinless Christ.

- 1. to shape and form our lives/ministry.
- 2. to develop our moral character.

Character is **WHO** you really are, not who you show people you are.

The misnomer is that when I accept Jesus Christ and join the church then all temptations go away, when I reach a certain age they fall off.



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Now that we know the temptation will come and will continue to come to me it's important that we pray right so we can have victory over and in our temptations for ourselves.

We are told to pray:

Matthew 6:13 NIV

13 And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one 14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

We can only have victory over and in temptation when we go to God daily.
Trusting God to hold us and keep us in and through our trials of temptation.

Pastor's Point: You/we are not strong enough to fight on the enemy's turf day after day, week after week, and expect to continue to win. The enemy knows your strengths and weaknesses too and uses these tools to fight against you/us.

Retreat, regroup and return.....repeat and repeat...get it?

The enemy takes no vacations and is relentless and tireless.

He majors in slow walking you down, wearing you down until you give in, and then the guilt will overwhelm you for giving in.

Personal confession: one of my friends at 34 years old wanted me to try some weed, a blunt. Did I say, my friend? Yes, one of my best friends at the time.

I talked to myself as he was pressing me just do it once, it won't hurt you, it's biblical, it's an herb, it's natural and I know you're into natural stuff. Did I say he was my friend? He knew all the ways no one would smell it in the hotel, vent process, wet towel at the door, etc. Did I say he was my friend?

Remember the enemy will use your friends, frenemies, and anyone to cause you to embarrass and shame the God you serve. Remember this is **NOT** about you! It's about the enemy's effort to get back at God and he uses us to do it. Your witness is what the enemy is



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trying to destroy so when you talk about God, church, and spiritual things **THEY** say “aren’t you the same one that.....did this, said this? Get it?
Needless to say, I did **NOT** give in to my friend!
I don’t think I’m better than you, but I was better than that!

Relevant question(s):

Have you ever been in a situation like that? How did you do?

Explain here...

We must pray, and talk for, and to ourselves!
Pray God’s word when you are tempted.

I Corinthians 10:13 NIV

13 No temptation[a] has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted[b]beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted,[c] he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

The 6th and final petition of this model prayer is broken into 2 requests, one negative and one positive.

“And lead us not into temptation”

This does not suggest that God leads us into temptation or tempting situations in any way. It is a prayer of humility, an understanding that as GOD guides and directs, please don’t let me fall into the traps and tricks of the enemy. You need to pray for yourself so that **WHEN** you’re tempted you can stand up under your own prayers and when you can’t you can see the way of escape, and **TAKE IT!**



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HELPFUL HOLY HINT: DON'T MISS YOUR EXIT!

James 1:13 NIV

13 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

Evil=LIVE backward

Proper prayer means praying for spiritual protection.

The meaning of “lead us not into temptation is simply” do not let us come under the sway of any temptation that will overpower us and cause us to sin.”

The idea is: Lord, preserve me from temptation that will bring me under its power and cause me to fail, fall, and embarrass you.

We will be tempted, but you don't have to fail the test.

Proper prayer asks God to deliver us from overpowering temptations.

Proper prayer asks God to protect us from our weaknesses and places where we are liable to fall.

Warning: You are **NOT** better than Peter who walked with God and swore he wouldn't fail, but ultimately his pride and human frailty failed even him.

What situation do you continue to put yourself in that you know you shouldn't?

How are you flirting with fire that you know is only going to burn you?

TAKE THE EXIT NOW!

“But deliver us from evil:

James 1:13 NIV

13 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

We need deliverance from the evil in this world, the evil in our hearts, and from the evil one himself(the devil).



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Proper prayer for spiritual protection understands that the devil is a real person!

No, no, no, no he does **NOT** wear a red suit and carry a pitchfork, but he does have hands, legs, feet, a mouth, etc.....who is it?

You/me when we let him use us!

He is not omnipotent(all-powerful), omnipresent(everywhere at the same time) nor is he omniscient(all-knowing), but God is!

Helmut Thielicke, the late German theologian said in postwar, occupied Germany:

“There is a dark, mysterious, spellbinding figure at work. Behind the temptations stands the tempter, behind the lie stands the liar, behind all the dead and bloodshed stands the murderer from the beginning.”

The scriptures call this malignant being Satan and the devil. Satan is the common Hebrew word for” adversary” as in **I Samuel 29:4**

Devil is the common Greek word for” slanderer” as in **1 Timothy 3:11**

The evil one is both our real adversary and our real slanderer.

Relevant question: Do you think the devil is real?

Lord Keep Me Day by Day

Lord, keep me day by day, in a pure and perfect way

I want to live, I want to live on in a building not made by hand

I'm just a stranger here

And I'm traveling through this barren land

I know there's a building

Somewhere, a building not made by hand



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This hymn/verse is a proper prayer against the evil one whose power is real, but limited. The good news about God is that no matter how real the evil one is and no matter how real his power is, God is greater!

We acknowledge the evil one’s power, and presence, but we don’t give him free advertising. We don’t spend more time talking about him than we do loving our God.

My prayers include praying for an edge around myself, my family, my church, community daily. I always intercede for others who are under assault and attack, praying for their deliverance from demonic, satanic attacks.

We must pray that God will keep us from temptations that would destroy us.

We must seriously and sincerely pray” lead us not into temptation.”

We must empty ourselves of all presumptions that we cannot fail, and fall into temptation.

Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 and write a prayer of gratefulness to God for this victory over temptation.
