

THE LORD'S PRAYER WEEK SEVEN
LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION

Statement...we come to the last of the 6 petitions that form the core of the Lord's Prayer, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us evil". Most people wouldn't resist the later part, "deliver us from evil" No matter what form evil takes, we'd prefer to skip the fight and play it safe. Jesus links the two phrases together. Resisting temptation and being set free from evil go hand in hand.

What most tempts you? When tempted, do you take it seriously, as a temptation, or make light of it? How would you define evil? How, when, and where have you felt its presence?

Facing our Real Enemy...resisting temptation isn't a quick battle; it is a life-long war. Why? Because we have a dark side that we hide. We are conflicted, torn in opposite ways, and not always sure what we want. No temptation is real unless we are tempted, unless it is a real option! Unless there is something of value at stake-something to lose/gain.

Our Ultimate Test...the word tempt means "trial/test". They are words of a crisis. We are in for a bigger fight than minor fleshly temptations. Some versions say, "save us from the time of trial, deliver us from evil one". It isn't a plea to be saved from "minor snares" but from the FINAL ULTIMATE TEST: that we not defect the faith, desert Christ, turn our backs on God's kingdom. This war isn't waged just in the news but in every soul. We vote FOR/AGAINST God every day. We are tempted, not just to DO WHAT IS WRONG but TO BE LESS than God INTENDED US TO BE.

What are you tempted TO DO that betrays your ideals, harms your relationships, or undermines your character?

What are you tempted TO BE that lures into becoming LESS THAN CHRIST EXPECTS YOU TO BE?

WHEN WE GAIN SATAN'S INTEREST...those who are strong may be tempted the most. Jesus was tempted after his baptism. We may be tested after high times of growth. You go out the door committed to making a difference in the world, you'll gain the Devil's interest. Do nothing, Satan will leave you alone.

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE...at the root of all evil is CONFUSION. We are most vulnerable to temptation when we doubt/question WHO WE ARE, or what OUR PURPOSE IS. Jesus won his battle over evil because he knew who he was and who he was not.