

**THE LORD'S PRAYER - PART VI**  
**The Protection of Prayer**

**Text: Matthew 6:13**

**Key Word:** Prayer

**Key Thought:** Both Testing and Temptation Have a Source That Needs to Be Clearly Identified

"Life is always under attack from temptation but no enemy can launch an invasion until he finds a bridgehead."

William Barclay  
"The Gospel of Matthew"  
Vol 1, p.226

Temptation is a fact of life. No one can truthfully say that they are void of temptation. We are not only to ask God to supply of our **DAILY bread** but also to keep us from **DAILY temptation.**

One very important question to ask is what does the Bible mean by the word "**temptation.**" After all does the Word of God not tell us that,

*"When tempted, no one should say, God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone."*

James 1:13

*"The man said, 'The woman you put here with me - she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."*

Genesis 3:12

*"And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him ...*

*2. ... Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of."*

Genesis 22:1,2  
KJV

*"Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited (vexed - NIV) the Holy One of Israel."*

Psalm 78:41 KJV

The word *"tempt"* in all these verses carries a very special meaning - double meaning. The first Hebrew word *"bachan"* usually has God as its subject. It means,

1). *"To examine, try, prove" to investigate"*

The second Hebrew word *"nasa"* has man as its subject and has a similar meaning,

2). *"To try (the strength of), to put to the test, to prove, to make trial."*

Therefore, God puts us to the test to show us where we are at in our Christian walk. It can sometimes be a painful and humiliating discovery of who we really are and what really motivates us.

*"But when the envoys were sent by the rulers of Babylon to ask him (Hezekiah) about the miraculous sign (the shadow of the sun reversing 10 steps) that had occurred in the land, God left him to test him and to know everything that was in his heart."*

*II Chronicles 32:31*

In the New Testament the word used for *"test"* (*"pierazein"*) also means *"to try, test, prove."* It is used in both a positive sense and a negative sense. God puts us to the test in order to bring about further growth. On the other hand, there were the Pharisees who foolishly tested God over and over again.

The Biblical meaning of the word *"temptation"* is **NOT** to make us fall. It is much like a testing process that is used in metallurgy today. A piece of metal is secured in a piece of equipment that measures the amount of stress and strain placed upon it before it breaks apart. By doing this test, the engineers know what safety factor they must work within in order for a structure to maintain its integrity. They keep well below the "Breaking Point" in order to adequately survive the stresses and strains which cause metal fatigue over long periods of time.

[In order to fully understand this portion of the Lord's prayer we must come to grips with the fact of where temptation or testing has its source.](#)

**I. FROM GOD'S REALM**  
**II. FROM SATAN'S REALM**  
**III. FROM HUMANITY'S REALM**

## I. FROM GOD'S REALM

This first realm implies that God is over all things that happen to us. It acknowledges that God has the final choice of what and who can come against us.

The book of Job begins with a conversation between God and Satan. God extols the virtues of Job before Satan. In response, Satan accuses God of placing a hedge of protection around Job which caused him to **APPEAR** to be righteous. Satan challenged God to come against him and then inspect the fruit of his life.

*"But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse your face."*

*Job 1:11*

God chose to allow Satan to have his way to a limit.

*"The LORD said to Satan, 'Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.'"*

*Job 1:12*

Although God did **not directly** bring the assaults of death and destruction to Job's family and belongings, He did allow Satan to bring about a barrage of aggression. And it did not stop there. Once Satan recognized that Job was not defeated he then asked God to attack his body. What is written about this is very interesting.

*"But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face.  
6. The LORD said to Satan, 'Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life.  
7. So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and inflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head."*

*Job 2:5-7*

I believe this proves that God will allow us to be tested and tried to show us how true we are to our faith in God. Satan asked God to strike His hand against Job, his family and property. But God allowed Satan to do the work. If God was not in control, we can be assured that Satan would have gone beyond the limits that were set for him.

## I. FROM GOD'S REALM (Contd.)

This is where I see the explanation to the Lord's prayer of asking God not to lead us into temptation or testing. **He is ultimately in control of the extent of every test that comes our way.**

\*\* A young girl in a Sunday School class had the answer for her teacher when asked what do you do when Satan comes knocking at the door of your heart.

*"I send God to answer it."*

\*\*

*"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty..."*

*2. I will say of the LORD, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.*

*3. Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.*

*4. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart (defensive wall)."*

*Psalm 91:1-4*

## II. FROM SATAN'S REALM

The word "**Satan**" means "**adversary**" or "**opponent**." Anyone who thinks that Satan is their friend is badly mistaken. There another name that is used for Satan and that is the "**Devil**". The word "**diabolos**" means "**slanderer**." He continually brings slanderous accusations against us. We must come to grips with the fact that God allows Satan to tempt us. Even Jesus was placed into a position that the devil was given a time to tempt/test the Lord.

*"Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert,*

*2. where for forty days he was tempted by the devil."*

*Luke 4:1,2a*

## II. FROM SATAN'S REALM (Contd.)

"We are to pray that we may not be led into temptation; or, if God sees fit that we should be tempted, that we may not yield thereto; or if we yield, that we may be not totally overcome by sin. Nor may we pray for a total exemption from trials, but only for a removal of the *judgement* of them."

A.W.Pink  
"The Beatitudes & the Lord's Prayer"  
p.121

The Scriptures make it clear that God will allow us to be tested in our faith.

*"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face **trials of many kinds**,  
3. because you know that the **testing of your faith develops perseverance.**"*

James 1:2,3

This does not mean that we foolishly walk into temptation. We must continually be on our guard to avoid being trapped by the devil's evil schemes. We need to walk carefully when we sense danger.

\*\* Max looked up at the steep icy mountainside. "I can't do it." he said.

His companions begged him to climb the mountain with them. But he refused to move.

"I'm against mountain climbing because its too dangerous," he said.

Now they call him "Anti-climb-Max."

\*\*

Satan does not often do the work himself. He has a host of fallen angels to do his dirty work. When we say "the devil did . . .," we are probably recognizing his evil influence in our lives. He can only be at one place, at one time. He is not all powerful and he does not know everything. He does not know what you are thinking yet he may place thoughts into your mind or influence your thought patterns.

He is constantly at work to deceive the world into his evil plans.

## II. FROM SATAN'S REALM (Contd.)

Satan's ultimate and final day of judgement has already been set into God's plan.

*"The great dragon was hurled down - that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.*

*10. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:*

*"Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. **For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before God day and night, has been hurled down.**"*

*Revelation 12:9,10*

## III. FROM HUMANITY'S REALM

There is a third realm which we must speak about which I find is usually the most destructive. I believe the devil has simply allowed people to destroy themselves because of the evil within them whether Christian or non-christian.

Sometimes we place ourselves in situations where we know we are sinning against God and His Word. When tempted to sin we run toward it instead of away from it.

*"But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's people.*

*4. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.*

*5. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person - such a man is an idolater - has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.*

*6. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.*

*7. Therefore be not partakers with them."*

*Ephesians 5:3-7*

### III. FROM HUMANITY'S REALM (Contd.)

Temptation can come from those we love as well as those who hate us. We should be very careful who we have fellowship with. Poor decisions can ruin our lives and many others as well. Solomon prayed,

*"So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong."*

*I Kings 3:9*

There is another aspect which we need to consider as well. We are sometimes tempted in the area in which we feel we are the strongest. When we say, *"I would never do that,"* we should beware lest we need to eat humble pie.

**Babylon fell** on that fateful night of 539 BC because King Belshazzar believed that his fortress was impregnable. **King Solomon fell** away from God because he did not maintain a discerning heart in choosing his pagan wives. They led him from right decisions to wrong ones. The list goes on and on. It is said that **Rome fell** from within.

#### 6537 Epigram

"Watch out for temptation - the more you see of it the better it looks!"

#### 6535 The Trained Dog

\*\*\* I once learned a lesson from a dog we had. My father used to put a bit of meat or biscuit on the floor near the dog and say, "No!" and the dog knew he must not touch it. But he never looked at the meat.

He seemed to feel that if he did so, the temptation to disobey would be too great, so he looked steadfastly at my father's face. There is a lesson for us all. Always look up to the Master's face during times of temptation. \*\*\*

Dr. Paul Lee Tan  
*"Encyclopaedia of 7,700 Illustrations"*  
p. 1447

### III. FROM HUMANITY'S REALM (Contd.)

It seems like nothing gives temptation a chance to win over us than over-confidence.

*"Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you may be tempted."*

*Galatians 6:1*

Before falling into temptation, ask yourself how it will affect you, your family, your church and your God if the truth comes to the surface. We need to constantly be on our guard. Our God will allow us to be tested. Pray that you are not overcome.

*"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."*

*Matthew 6:13*

C:/My Documents/WPWin(X7)/Sermons.2018/Prayer-Lord's/matt 6\_13.wpd

Date: Apr 29\18

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: I Put all my Trust in You - G

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**INTRODUCTION:** - James 1:13; Genesis 3:12; Genesis 22:1,2 KJV; Psalm 78:41 KJV

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**II. FROM SATAN'S REALM** - Luke 4:1,2a; James 1:2,3; Revelation 12:9,10

**III. FROM HUMANITY'S REALM** - Ephesians 5:3-7; I Kings 3:9; Galatians 6:1; Matthew 6:13