

## **HC 127 – Lead us away from Temptation; Deliver us if we Fall!**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: You must hallow 神圣 God's name. When you do, his kingdom will come. When his kingdom comes, his will be done on earth as it is done by the angels in heaven. But to accomplish these things, you need to be equipped with food, and forgiveness – physical and spiritual needs. To get food and forgiveness, you need to pray to be close to God and to stay away from sin. We will look at this last petition of the Lord's Prayer today.

Our headings are: **Be Near and Help Us! We are Weak**, **Be Near and Help Us! Our Enemies are Strong**, and **Be near and Help Us! You are Able**.

Our goals are: That you may recognize that even though you are a child of Christ, you daily **need to be preserved from, or preserved through, temptations in order to fulfill your covenant duties.**

### **127 Q. WHAT DOES THE SIXTH REQUEST MEAN?**

**A.** *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil* means, By ourselves we are too weak to hold our own even for a moment. And our sworn enemies– the devil, the world, and our own flesh– never stop attacking us. And so, Lord, uphold us and make us strong with the strength of your Holy Spirit, so that we may not go down to defeat in this spiritual struggle, but may firmly resist our enemies until we finally win the complete victory.

### **Be near and Help us! We are weak**

**1. Because you are spiritually weak and yet have great responsibilities placed on you, you need God's help.** You need to pray for him to save you from facing temptation or you need him to deliver you when you are in a temptation 试探 so that you don't sin.

**2. Does God tempt you? No. Does the Devil tempt you? Yes. The Devil tempts you but God tests 试验 you. What is the difference?** Tempting, what the Devil does, is a **lure to make you do wrong things** – it is an attempt to “sever the bond that exists between you and God.” **Testing, what God does, is to make you better ...as gold through fire.** Does the Bible really teach this distinction between tempting and testing? Yes!

**3. God tests you to refine you! You can say that he prunes you by testing you so you will produce better – like a man prunes a grape vine.** But know for sure: God does not tempt. God tests his children.

James 1:13 - Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, **nor does He Himself tempt anyone.**

God tested Abraham by telling him to go and sacrifice Isaac. God tested people in their giving in Malachi 3. He says: Test me and see if I wouldn't bless your obedient giving!

Ecclesiastes 3:18 I said in my heart, "Concerning the condition of the sons of men, **God tests them**, that they may see that they themselves are like animals."

**4. The Devil tempts people to destroy you – like he tempted Job through his wife.** Job's wife encouraged him to save himself from his pain and curse God and die. By God's grace, Job resisted...even as Jesus resisted the Devil when he was tempted by him.

**Matthew 4: 1** Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness **to be tempted by the devil.**

The goal of the Devil in tempting Jesus was to derail 出軌 the cross! The Devil pretended to care about Jesus' hunger and desires, but he was seeking Jesus' destruction.

**5. But be comforted. Even when you are tempted by the Devil, he is limited by God.** The Lord only allows temptations by the Devil to show you your weakness and show you his amazing deliverance power. The Lord knows that you will never able to stand up for a minute – a second – to the Devil's temptation because you are weak. He strengthens and keeps you...as you draw from him.

**John 15:5** "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for **without Me you can do nothing.**

**6. There is a personal obligation 个人义务 in making this request that you must not miss. If you are praying to be saved from temptation or saved through temptation, you are praying for wisdom not to put yourself in positions where you are tempted.** Don't pray to be saved through temptation and then go to places where others can lure you. Train your eye, heart, and body to avoid situation that can destroy your Christian testimony. Avoid friends that drink too much...or watching TV too much or bad things on it...or putting your computer in a secret place... If you do those things, how can you ask God for help in those situations? That would be presumptuous.

### **Be Near and Help Us: Our Enemies are Strong**

**1. The next reason you need to be protected from temptation or be saved through temptation is because your enemy is dangerous-dangerous in the worst sense of the word-not like it is dangerous to eat Trans fats.** What are the 3 enemies that every Christian will face in his life every day that can put his life in mortal danger?

**a. The Devil – he is the perennial enemy 天敌 of God's people. He never ever stops!**

**2Corinthians 11:14** And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an **angel of light.**

**Ephesians 6: 10** Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. **11** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the **wiles of the devil.** **12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. **13** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

**1Peter 5:8** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a **roaring lion**, seeking whom he may devour. 你们要谨守、警醒。你们的仇敌魔鬼，好像吼叫的狮子走来走去，寻找可以吞吃的人

The context of the Lord's Prayer tells you that the Lord was not speaking of "evil" in general, but rather, he was speaking of the Evil One. You need deliverance from the Devil. He is the personification 人格化 of evil.

**b. The World.** "World" refers to the system that is under the dominion of Satan: false religions, secular culture 世俗文化, evolutionists, many movie makers, evil writers, some political institutions, etc.) These are the Devil's infants and institutions. These things and people are diametrically opposed to everything Christian.

John 15:18 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.  
19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.  
20 "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

**c. Your own Flesh** is an enemy from which God must deliver you! Christians like to go back to their past owner! We are like dogs that go back to their vomit.

Romans 7: 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

Galatians 5:17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

**2. The Scriptures take time to show the strength of your enemies so you would look to God for strength.** These are not uncommitted enemies who might leave if they can't win – like mercenaries might do. These enemies stay and hound 追赶 you. They will war against you till you die. This means you need to make this prayer until you die. It doesn't matter how spiritual you might think you are, you will be tempted by these enemies. The aged lust 欲望 Old women steal. Children covet. Sin never leaves you alone. So you see why you need to make this petition!

### **Be Near and Help Us! You are Able**

**1. You acknowledge by this petition that only God is able to save you from temptation – knowing your own weaknesses and the strength of your 3 deadly enemies.** Even Jesus prayed often.

Matthew 26: 41 "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

And in the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus called on his people to pray for strength so they could do the work God assigned to them. Jesus himself was strengthened to face the temptation to walk away from the cross.

1Thessalonians 5: 23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As Apostle Paul closed his letter, he prayed for Thessalonians to get God's help to clean their souls and bodies of sin! Only the weak need strengthening. Only the dirty need to be cleaned.

Jude 1: 24 Now to Him who is **able to keep you from stumbling**, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, 25 To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.

## **2. God is not only able, but willing to save you through your temptations.**

1Corinthians 10: 13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

There is no worse feeling than being abandoned 遗弃 by a loved one. This is why children of broken homes (whether through divorce, death, or desertion) often have so many struggles. This is why divorcees can struggle so much. But your heavenly Father will never abandon you.

## **3. Even while Jesus was on earth he prepared his people to learn dependence 顺服 on the only one who would be able to keep them through troubles and temptations. (They were tempted to deny him.)**

Matthew 10: 19 "But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; 20 "for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

The Holy Spirit fills your heart in order that you have boldness 胆量 through all temptations.

## **4. And even throughout temptations you'll have confidence—for God enables you by his Holy Spirit to keep a smile on your face knowing you can come through all your tests successfully.**

Rom 5: 3 And not only that, **but we also glory in tribulations 患难**, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character 忍耐 产生毅力; and character, hope 盼望. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

And notice that you can even rejoice through your temptations, knowing they are for your good.

## **Conclusion:**

Every Christian man, woman, boy, or girl is weak and cannot endure temptations. You give in and sin against the Lord. You can't win because your 3 enemies, the Devil, the world, and your own flesh, are stronger than you and you, by yourself, wouldn't last a minute against them.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. This is quite an amazingly humbling request. After all, who likes to admit he is desperately needy 迫切需要 and cannot survive without another? Who likes to admit that he fails when he is tempted, maybe by what he watches on TV, by books he reads, by lusting for the opposite sex, money, or power? **But you are needy.** Thankfully, you as a

Christian can make petition for help through temptations (the non-Christian can't pray this prayer because he is not God's child). You make this petition because you are an adopted child of God through Jesus Christ.

**2. So make this petition** (lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the Evil One) early and often. Pray that you can look at the storm of temptation that wants to overwhelm you but that you stick your finger in its eye knowing that victory is certain through your heavenly Father.

**3. If you allow yourself to give into temptation you will be weakened and unable to fulfill your duties in kingdom building.** You will not be able to properly teach your children, love your wife, tell others about Christ – you will not be able to live your life for God's glory. But with Christ with you, you can smile at the storm 对暴风雨微笑

Finally, a note to non-Christians: Though we as Christians fail God and give into temptations, we are forgiven because we are his children. You are not his child, so you will not be forgiven. Every sin you commit in thought, word, and actions, will be held against you...held over your head. The only way of escape is to ask God to make you his child because Christ took the punishment for sins. I pray that God will give you the grace 恩典 to ask him to adopt you.