

# Biblical Topics

## Lord's Prayer – Sixth Petition

### Lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean?

God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

A temptation is any life situation in which we must decide for or against God, for good or for evil. There are usually strong inducements that would draw us either way, and so we are tested whether we follow the one or the other.

God is said to tempt (test) man when He tests, or tries, the faith of His children for the purpose of purifying and strengthening them. God never tempts His children to do evil.

- John 6:5-6: <sup>5</sup> When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" <sup>6</sup> He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.
- Genesis 22:1-19: God tempted Abraham in order to test and strengthen his faith.

In this petition the word "temptation" means temptation to evil. Temptation to evil consists in this, that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature try to deceive us or seduce us into misbelief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Misbelief is to doubt the truth of God's Word. Despair means to doubt or not believe that God's promises of grace apply to us personally. Shame means to bring great disgrace upon us in the eyes of others around us. Great vice are sins that are hard to overcome such as cursing, drunkenness, immorality, etc.

- James 1:13-14: <sup>13</sup> When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; <sup>14</sup> but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.
- 1 Peter 5:8-9: <sup>8</sup> Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.
- Matthew 18:7: "Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, but woe to the man through whom they come!"
- Proverbs 1:10: My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them.
- 2 Timothy 4:10: for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia.

We ask God in this petition:

- A. To guard and to keep us, so that temptation to evil may not come upon us.

- 2 Thessalonians 3:3: But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.
- B. To strengthen and preserve us when He permits temptation to come, so that in the end we may overcome and be victorious.
- Ephesian 6:13: Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.
  - 1 Corinthians 10:13: No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. 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 stand up under it.

The above information is taken from: "Luther's Small Catechism" annotated by Edward W. A. Koehler.