

Lord's Prayer Devotion

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as forgive those who sin against us; **lead us not into temptation**, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen

There are two meanings to temptation. One is an enticement to evil which only comes from the devil. The other is a testing which comes from God to make us stronger in our faith. In this petition the first is meant.

The devil uses the following to tempt: (1) when afflictions last long and deliverance is slow in coming. (2) when the misery seems too great, very peculiar, and very strange. (3) when under the goal of doing some great good, he challenges some to try something very dangerous or something beyond their strength and vocation. (4) when he cloaks and covers evil under the name of virtue such as coveting being called guidance, cruelty called justice, pride called bravery, ignorance called simplicity, waste called liberality, and so forth. (5) when he uses peace, quietness, and rest to tempt into a feeling of false security. (Chemnitz p. 82)

- Dear brother, you cannot prevent the birds from flying over your head, but you can certainly keep them from building a nest in your hair. (LW – V 42 p. 73)
- Temptation is of three kinds: flesh, world and the devil. Just a few works of the flesh are: unchastity, laziness, gluttony, drunkenness, greed, deceit, acts of fraud and deception. The world assails us with hatred, envy, enmity, violence, injustice, vengeance, cursing, reviling, slander, arrogance and pride along with fondness for luxury, honor, fame and power. The devil especially exerts himself where the conscience and spiritual matters are at stake. His purpose is to make us scorn and despise both the Word and the works of God, to tear us away from faith, hope and love, draw us into unbelief, false security, and stubbornness, or to drive us into despair, atheism, blasphemy and countless other abominable sins. (Book of Concord pp. 433-34)
- When the Law condemns you, then immediately lay hold upon the Gospel (Walther Law & Gospel p. 45)

Prayer: Dear Lord, help me to know the difference between your testing and the devil's tempting. Strengthen my faith so that I can avoid the pitfalls of the devil's temptations and run to you for help. Amen.