

Hey there! Pastor Gerber here again. Welcome back.

Today, we are continuing with our study of the Lord's Prayer. Let's pray that together again, right now.

Our Father...

Today we are looking at the sixth and seventh petitions of the Lord's Prayer: And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

I want you to take a few minutes and read a couple passages of scripture: Matthew 4:1-11 and Matthew 26:36-46. Again, that's Matthew 4:1-11 and Matthew 26:36-46. Press pause now.

Notice, when we pray 'lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, we are really saying, "Father, do not only bring us into temptation, rather, even more, deliver us from the evil one.

James 1:13-15 teaches us that 'When tempted, no one should say, "GOD is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone; but everyone is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.'

Notice that temptation is a physical and spiritual matter – we need to apply healthy, physical boundaries and also allow Jesus to heal the deeper wounds and identity questions.

Have you heard the phrase 'if you play with fire, you're going to get burned'? This the same idea. If you are constantly physically putting yourself into areas where you are more likely to be tempted, then, you are more likely to sin.

For example: You are more likely to break the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment when you are alone at your boyfriend's or girlfriend's house or simply the house of someone of the opposite gender than you are when you are surrounded by a group of people, including your parents.

You're more likely to gossip when you hang around people who gossip.

You're more likely to drink and do drugs when you hang around people who drink and do drugs.

So, temptation isn't just a spiritual matter, but a physical matter as well.

Satan's goal is to steal, kill and destroy and he accomplishes this through lies, doubt, false promises, temptations, shame, and separation.

Satan knows that he has already lost you for eternity. You are a baptized child of God. But if he can make you an ineffective Christian, then he is able to steal, kill, and destroy your friends and family who don't see your Christian witness or hear your words of love and mercy.

And Satan doesn't just try and get you to do wrong, but to think wrong. If he can get you to think that the evil thing that you are about to do will actually turn out ok, then he is doing his job.

So, what do we do when we face temptation? We read God's Word. Take a look at those two passages, 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 and Colossians 2:14-15 and fill in the blanks in the statements that follow. Press pause now.

As you can tell, we are in the midst of a spiritual battle. We need to be ready, so we should arm ourselves for war – not with your typical armor and weapons, but with spiritual ones. Take some time and read Ephesians 6:11-18 and fill in the blanks as you find out what different pieces of armor and weapons we are to employ. Press pause now.

But we don't always win the battle. We need to ask for forgiveness when we fail. 1 John teaches us to repent and receive grace when we fall.

The main point of our session today is that temptation is a reality and we are trusting God to lead us through it and deliver us from the evil one. We prepare for the spiritual battle by putting on the armor of God and resting in the victory that Jesus has won on the cross.

Well, that's all for today. As always, let me know if you have any questions. See you next time!