

What does “Lead us not into temptation” mean?

www.makinglifecount.net

Recently Pope Francis stated the phrase in the Lord’s Prayer “lead us not into temptation” was “not a good translation” from ancient texts. This phrase in the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:13) in Greek says, “Lead us not (bring us not) into temptation but deliver us (rescue us) from the evil (one).” Why would Jesus tell us to pray this?

We know that God doesn’t tempt anyone. James 1:13 tells us, “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.” Satan is called “the tempter” in Matthew 4:3 and 1 Thess. 3:5. “Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil” (Matt. 4:1). The Holy Spirit didn’t lead Him into temptation but into the wilderness. It was in that space— “the wilderness”—Satan was responsible for tempting Jesus. He had to be “tempted in every way—just as we are, yet without sin” (Heb. 4:15) to be our High Priest.

The Lord sees future situations where we can fall into temptation. Jesus gave **a pre-temptation instruction** to His disciples “Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation” (Matt. 26:41). Praying for God to “lead us not into temptation” means He can guide our steps in such a way where we avoid the people and places that can tempt us. We ask our Father to take providential charge of us to keep us out of some situations where the evil one can tempt us.

Making Life Count Ministries
P.O. Box 680174
Prattville, Alabama 36068
www.makinglifecount.net