



The Father's Perseverance "The Lord's Prayer" Series

Matthew 6:13a, p. 811

February 23, 2020

Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In Petition Six of the Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches us seek the perseverance God provides in our temptations.

The Text: Matthew 6:13a

A Summary of the Seven Petitions of the Lord's Prayer:

1. "Hallowed be your name" (God's reputation in the world)
2. "Your kingdom come" (God's reign over the world)
3. "Your will be done" (God's purposes for the world)
4. "Give us our daily bread" (our basic human needs)
5. "Forgive our debts, as we our debtors" (our basic spiritual needs)
6. "Lead us not into temptation" (our internal spiritual battles)
7. "Deliver us from evil" (our external spiritual battles)

1) Summary: Petition Six is asking God to protect and rescue us from temptation so our faith may persevere.

a) The phrase "lead us not into temptation" (ESV) could cause some confusion.

James 1:13-14: ¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

b) "Lead us not into" is saying something like this: "Do not let us yield to" or "protect us from."

c) "Temptation" refers to the on-going, internal battle to love God and neighbor over all else.

2) Petition Six offers us important teachings on a biblical view of temptation and spiritual growth.

a) The Christian life is a battle, and this battle is one that God alone can and will win.

Gen. 4:7: "sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."

b) God's will or "calling" for every Christian is to take seriously our battle with sin and our growth in Christ.

Rom. 8:29: "For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son"

c) God wants us to take seriously our temptation to and battle with sin.

Matt. 5:6: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

1 Cor. 7:5: Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

Gal. 6:1: Brothers and sisters, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

d) The God who met us in our state of sin and redeemed us will continue to be faithful and minister to us in our temptation and battle with sin.

1 Cor. 10:12-13: ¹² Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

3) By praying Petition Six, we are asking our Father to help us in our internal spiritual battle with sin.

Response

Our prayer life – and Christian life – should reflect the truth that God ministers to us in our weakness, especially in our battle with sin.

Small Group Questions for Matthew 6:13a (Lord's Prayer Series)

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- 1) Starter Question: What is so attractive or enticing about sin that God's Word calls it a "temptation?"
- 2) How might Petition Six seem to conflict with James 1:13-14 about God not tempting anyone?
- 3) How does understanding the phrase "lead us not into..." means more "protect us from temptation" help resolve any contradiction between James 1:13-14?
- 4) How would you explain "temptation" to a person who is trying to understand the Christian life?
- 5) How might God "protect us" or "lead us through" our temptations to sin?
- 6) How does 1 Cor. 10:12-13 help us understand how God ministers to us in our times of temptation?
- 7) How does Rom. 8:29 give us a guarantee that God will minister to the true Christian in such a way that they will persevere?
- 8) If God forgave all our sins (past, present, and future) when we became a Christian, why does God care about our sin and behavior now?
- 9) How might this petition encourage you to be more conscious of the temptations in your life and strengthen your fight against sin?
- 10) If you were honest, what is your greatest or most common temptation? If you are not comfortable sharing this with your small group and getting support, spend time praying for one another.

Further study this week: Key biblical texts on temptation: James 1 (Mon); Genesis 4 (Tues); Galatians 6 (Wed); 1 Corinthians 10 (Thurs); Romans 8 (Fri).