

THE LORD'S PRAYER – MATTHEW 6:9-13

AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE.

This is our final look at the Lord's Prayer. I hope you have enjoyed this study; it is always helpful to stop and really think about our priorities in prayer.

In busy and stressful seasons of our lives, it can be all too easy for our prayers to look more like, 'why is this happening to me?' instead of coming to God and praising him, instead of asking for his kingdom to come and his will to be done. Remembering this model of prayer can really help us in those moments, reminding us to get our focus back on God Almighty.

This really is a good and powerful prayer! The line we're looking at today is:

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Let's think about the first part of this line first, lead us not into temptation. What temptations do we face today?

What causes us to be tempted? What are the influences that tempt us?

Read James 1:13-15

Does God tempt us? How?

What can we do about the temptations we face? How can we stop ourselves giving in to them and sinning?

1 Corinthians 10:13 says:

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. 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 endure it.



That's a reassuring verse when we think about temptation. Do we always take the way out of temptation that God provides, or stay in it?

Why do you think this part of the prayer is plural again – lead **us** not into temptation? Do we pray for other people to avoid the temptations they struggle with?

The next part of this verse in the Lord's prayer says 'deliver us from the evil one.'

What do you think about this part of the verse? Who is the evil one?

Read Ephesians 6:10-12

Who are we struggling against? Who are we **not** struggling against?

Considering the culture you live in, how is the devil trying to destroy people?

Does everything evil come from God? What about ourselves?

How can we fight against evil, both that within us and the enemy?

This part of the verse is plural again – how often do we pray for deliverance from evil for those around us? What evils are in the world that we should be praying against?

The great news in all of this is that God is sovereign. We are in a battle, yes, we do have to fight with real temptations and with a real enemy, yes, but God has won the victory against those things. Jesus defeated the enemy on the cross! Don't be discouraged as we conclude this discussion, feeling that it's a battle we can't win, because we are already on the winning team!

I've made a template for you to take away this week, to think about this prayer as a whole. Underneath each line of this prayer is a space, for you to add in your own prayer. We can pray these verses as they are and that's good, but this really is such a great model, Have a go at filling this in this week, making it personal for your life at the moment in each of the areas we have considered.



You'll notice there is one final line of the prayer that we've not looked at specifically, the part that goes:

For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

In most Bibles now you won't actually find this line printed, or only as a footnote. This is because it was actually added at a later date, probably something the early disciples added to the prayer rather than something Jesus himself said. Having said that, it is a great way to end a prayer, putting the focus back onto God, just as we started the prayer by really focussing on him. That's why it is included on the sheet so you can close your own prayer by remembering who it is you're praying to.

I hope you've enjoyed this study, and found a few things that you can takeaway to apply to your own prayer life. I know I'm going to be trying to keep this model up a bit better in my own prayer life from now on!

