

# LIFE GROUP STUDY

*Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.*

Martin Luther is reputed to have said that he went to bed with the fifth petition of the Lord's Prayer and woke up with the sixth. It makes sense, does it not?

We go to bed reviewing the day and realize we need to pray the fifth petition, "forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors." We wake up previewing the day, and realize we need to pray the sixth petition, "lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

Darrell Johnson  
Fifty -seven words that changed the world

**Question :** What is the connection between "Forgive us our debts" and "lead us not into temptation"?  
What is the connection between "as we forgive those in debt to us" and "lead us not into temptation"?

*Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.*

Not just "deliver us from evil," although it is not wrong to pray that way. It's just that in the sixth petition Jesus uses the definite article: "the evil." He uses this same phrase in the rest of his Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5:37) to refer to his enemy, the devil, "the evil one." He is the one who has rebelled against God: the one who seeks to dishonor the name of the Father; the one who seeks to deprive the Father's children of daily bread; the one who seeks to divide the Father's children from him and from each other by causing them to cling to their hurts and grievances.

Darrell Johnson  
Fifty -seven words that changed the world

**Question :** Why is it way easier for people to believe in God than to believe there is an entity filled with evil whose aim is to destroy their life?

What are the dangers of not believing in the existence of the devil?

Why is it important to perceive evil not only as a innate force or concept but also personified in a person [devil] and his spiritual beings [demons, evil spirits, afflicting spirits]?

What are the dangers of overstating the power and reach of the devil versus the power and reach of our own sinful nature? What happens when a person attributes every difficulty to the devil's direct action rather than also to the affects of living in a fallen world?

*Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.*

What the Father of Jesus means as a test, the evil one seeks to turn into a temptation. How then should we word the sixth petition of the Lord's Prayer? What is Jesus teaching us to pray? I think it is this: *"Father, as you lead us into the test, do not let the test become a temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."*

Or, *"Father, you know that we cannot stand up under very much pressure. As you lead us to the test—all of life is a test!—as you seek to prove and improve our faith, do not let the test become a temptation, a seduction to sin, but deliver us from the subtle wiles of the deceiver against whom we are no match. Father, rescue us from the evil one!"*

Darrell Johnson  
*Fifty -seven words that changed the world*

**Question :** What do you see are the differences between temptations, trials, and tests?

Why does God allow us, and even lead us, into testing? Consider Luke 22 : 31 - 32; Luke 4 : 1 - 2; Matthew 3 : 12 ; Malachi 3:3

How could a God lead testing turn into a temptation and even into sin? What is the root cause of this?

How does this danger stir you or change the way you pray *"and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one"*?