

**“Lead us, not into temptation... fifth petition”**

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Luke 4. 1-13

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Today we come to the fifth request of this prayer. We have seen how wide it is. And in this we have seen that God is the source that meets all our needs. He is the great provider who gives us bread and he is aware of each and every one of our needs. He is the forgiving God who takes the initiative in forgiving and produces in us a forgiving heart. And now we are going to see that God is the great protector. Combined these we must say that without a doubt God is the great comforter. He provides, He forgives, He protects. Everything we need in life we must seek from God and in God, that is, in obedience to his will.

When one considers in detail and looks closely at this petition we will inevitably find that it is more complex than we imagined. The words of Jesus are profound. At first glance it could be confusing.

According to the Bible, God tests us. For example, the Bible tells us that God tested Abraham's heart. It was God himself who told Abraham to offer up Isaac. We have the example of Job's life. Behind all the terrible things that happened to Job, God was testing him. Nothing happens, absolutely nothing, outside of the providential government of our God who is holy, wise and good.

**God tests our faithfulness.** God told the people of Israel. In Deuteronomy 8:2, God tells his people, who have wandered for 40 years in the desert, that the test was to "know what was in your heart." Not that God did not know, but so that the people of Israel would know what was in their hearts. God uses trials to discover who we are and what place God occupies in our lives.

**God also tests us to purify us.** Proverbs 17:3: "The crucible for silver, and the furnace for gold; But Jehovah tests hearts." Both the crucible and the furnace melt metal to

clean them. God tests us by means of the furnace of the test to cleanse our dross of the sin that is still in us.

But this request says "lead us not into temptation" does not refer to tests or trials. So, what is the difference? Although the original is usually translated as synonyms, the truth is that they are not; since the test is something that God puts before us in order to mature our character and sanctify us; temptations, on the other hand, come from the enemy with the purpose of turning us away from God and his will.

In other words, the difference between trial and temptation is that trials are difficult situations that God allows to strengthen our faith, and temptations are attempts by the enemy to make us sin and fall from God's Grace. So, when we ask God the Father: lead us not into temptation, it means at least three things:

**I. We beg Him to order all things for our good.** We recognize that we are not in control of things. All of us go to bed at night and don't know if we will get up or wake up. We strive to earn our daily bread. But still the one who gives the growth is God. During all that reality and the fact that nothing is under our control; we ask God that, in his mercy, in his love and care for us, he will order all things for our good. And may he help us recognize and accept that we often don't know how to handle life's circumstances. And that is why we ask God to help us so that we are not destroyed by those circumstances.

That is the same thing that Jesus asks daily for each one of his brothers. In his intercessory priestly prayer Jesus asks the Father:

**“I do not ask that you take them out of the world,  
but that you keep them from evil.”**

**II. We beg Him to give us strength not to sin.** We are attacked from all sides. We are tempted by the world to sin against God, to disobey him, to not be faithful to him. And apart from that, we ourselves are not careful enough not to get into temptation but are quick to go after it. We are not given to resisting them or turning away from them. We do

not watch our heart, our mind or our emotions to react quickly to temptations. We ourselves are like the apostles. Jesus told them:

**“Watch and pray, so that you do not enter into temptation;  
the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”**

Did they watch and pray? No! They fell asleep, they did not watch for a single hour.

Seeing how prone we are to falling into temptation, we beg God to help us recognize and accept that we are quick to fall easily. And we beg you to give us your grace and strength to be able to resist temptation and not sin against God.

But there is something important too. We beg him that if we fall into sin through our negligence and our carnalities we can get up, get back on the road, and be truly healed.

**III. We beg Him to give us the strength to resist the evil.** The context of the prayer is resisting temptation and we know that the evil is behind many of our temptations. When we read the chapter on the temptation of Jesus, we see that behind each of the temptations is the hand of the evil one.

Jesus wants us to never forget that without his grace, without his strength, we cannot defeat Satan. From here we ask God to give us his strength to resist. Our duty is: be sober, watchful, and resist the devil. Don't underestimate evil. And to watch We are called to resist firm in faith. Resisting temptation under the power of the strength of Jesus. He expects us to cry: Lord save us, help us to resist. Because the faith that he has given us is powerful and defeats not only the world but all its enemies because it is the faith that is from God.

In all this Jesus wants to teach us how fragile, weak and vulnerable we are in the midst of temptations and trials. And our absolute dependence on God to overcome them and avoid sin. But his power is enough to preserve us, sustain us and heal us if we fall. That is why we always ask: "Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil".