

Weaving the Word

Deliver Us From Evil

Part 42 – August 23, 2015

Welcome to where we're counting the cost to follow the One who paid the price!



Today, we're looking at the Lords' Prayer Guide. (Mat 6:13)

We saw that **"lead us *not* into temptation"** is a **negative synonym** for **"away from"** or **"out of"**, depending on whether we're heading toward or already in.

The language not only allows it, logic demands it.

God doesn't tempt, but He *does* permit it.



Then Jesus was **led by the Spirit** into the desert **to be tempted by the devil**. – Matthew 4:1 NIV

Just as good parents prepare their kids, and then drive 'em to the prom, **our Father allows us to experience well-measured temptation**. (1 Cor 10:13)



This is how God's children grow. And Jesus isn't saying to plead with our Father as though He doesn't act for our eternal best.

Does this mean we can flirt with temptation?

Just the opposite! **Our role is to steer clear of it or stand up to it.**



"Lead us, **away from** or **out of**" is a request and a desire to be strengthened by the Spirit. Jesus warned His disciples to ...

"Watch [like a soldier on guard against land mines] and **pray** [for alertness and strength] so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." – Matthew 26:41 NIV



So first, **it's a proactive prayer** to follow the Lord's lead *away from* temptation by obeying two *basic instructions*: **"Turn and run!"**

Turn my eyes away from worthless things ... – Psalm 119:37a NIV

Flee the evil desires ... - 2 Timothy 2:22a NIV



And secondly, **it's a reactive prayer to stand and resist** when we find ourselves confronted by a temptation we didn't see coming.

Whether the fault is in our own carelessness or the pressure of another doesn't matter; just stand your ground! Don't move.

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Resist him, **standing firm** in the faith ... – 1 Peter 5:8-9 NIV



Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and **he** will **flee** from **you**. – James 4:7 NIV

But, **how do we "resist"?**

By **"standing firm in the faith"** and **"submitting to God"**.

Imagine taking aim at an attacking lion and pulling the trigger.

Click.

That's us when we have no specific scripture, for our unique patterns of weakness and vulnerabilities, loaded in our heart. That's us when we're not **"self-controlled"** and **"alert"** and **"standing firm"** and **"submitted"**, so that we won't **"fall into temptation"**.



Temptation is like wading into the shallows of a raging, muddy river.

It's easy to underestimate the power of the current.

And, it's **hard to gauge the drop-off. Until it's too late.**

I can be led "not into" the raging river if I flee from the shallows; or, if I'm in the shallows, if I stand firm.

But, what if, instead of running or resisting, I wade in deeper?

Well, **if I don't come away, and I'm swept away, I must be rescued.**

Delivered ... from evil.

What comes next is one of the most encouraging, reassuring, hopeful lines in the Lord's Prayer Guide ... *for when we fail.*

It's a built-in cry for help for Jesus' followers who submit to the lyin', step off the landmine, and fall into temptation.

*“Lead us away from temptation, or lead us out of temptation ... **but** [also: yet; nevertheless] **deliver us from evil**” (when we fail to follow your lead).”*

This is also translated as “the evil *one*”, which creates the image of letting down our guard and getting caught up in his clutches!

We proactively pray to run.

We reactively pray to resist.

But, we cry out for rescue when we’re going under.



This is a prayer for the overwhelmed. In over our head. Going under. Gasping for air. Helpless, hopeless, to save ourselves.

Nobody is led from drowning.

Drowning requires deliverance; a Life Guard.



This is how we personalize *this* portion of the Lord’s Prayer Guide.

Whether our current condition is self-imposed, or inflicted by another, when it’s too late to be led, we must be delivered!

“Mr. Wizard!” Remember Tooter Turtle?



Tooter always ended up screaming, “*Help! Mister Wizard!*” And Mr. Wizard would say, “*Drizzle-drazzle-druzzle-drome; time for zis vun to come home!*” And, everything would be *magically fixed* with a little hocus-pocus.

Well, that’s how it works in the cartoons.

But, **is this how you approach it in prayer?**



We’re not calling on a wizard; we’re calling on a Savior!

Our Father is determined to see us strengthened and developed.

So: “*Drizzle-drazzle-druzzle-drint; time for zis vun to **repent!***”
Otherwise, like Tooter, you’ll never learn your lesson!

We are bound to repeat until we repent. Regret. Return.

And, receive God’s grace and *be restored*.

That's a big part of what it means to *be delivered from evil*. So, whatever the raging river, **I must recognize and acknowledge my role in it**; because, **we are only as sick as our secrets**.

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. – James 5:16 NIV



Sin grows in the dark.

So, bring it into the light.

Even when our condition is chiefly, or entirely, caused by another, our cry for deliverance is *not* a passive prayer.

[Paul writes] Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. - Romans 12:21 NIV



If I allow the sin of another to dictate *my* response, if I repay evil for evil, or choose to hold a grudge ... *I'm being overcome*.

I'm resisting the Life Guard.

I'm refusing to allow God to deliver me!

Don't allow the sin of another to overcome you.

Hold fast to the arms of the Life Guard, our Savior, our Father, who said in the Psalms ...

“Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.” – Psalm 91:13-15 ESV

The word, “deliver”, in “deliver us from evil”, means to draw to one's self; and, that's precisely how our Father-Lord-and-Savior delivers *us*.

So, who are you submitting to?

And, who are you resisting?

Resist the devil and *he* will *flee*.

Submit to God and *He* will *deliver*.

He'll walk us through it, teach us from it, strengthen our faith within it, and ultimately work it to our good and His glory.