

## **LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION**

### **Matthew 6:13**

**Introduction:** To understand this particular phrase, one must recognize the difference between temptation of Satan and a TEST of God.

God does nothing evil! Nor does God lead anyone to commit evil or to even THINK of doing evil.

TESTING from God is intended to bring out the good, rather than anything harmful.

Jesus knew that temptation would always be with us and has instructed us to pray this phrase: *"...do not let us be led into temptation..."*

### **I. THE CHRISTIAN HAS A DAILY STRUGGLE WITH TEMPTATION**

It was easy to become a Christian but it is not easy to be genuinely Christian every day. To live in this world without blame is very difficult, if not impossible for a Christian to do.

1. FORGIVENESS does not assure victory over evil! There is no such thing as relaxing after prayer. Eternal life does not eliminate our sinful nature. The new life creates a battle within the Christian.
2. TEMPTATION will always be a part of the human body. Even Jesus was tempted.
  - temptation can come from circumstances about us.
  - temptation can come from those who love us.
  - temptation can come from evil within us.
  - temptation can come from the Devil, himself.
  - TESTS, trials may come from God, but only to develop and perfect us. (James 1:12-14)

### **II. JESUS ENCOURAGES US TO LOVE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND TO HATE SIN**

1. To SINCERELY offer this petition is to experience a knowledge and fear of sin. Only a fool will treat sin lightly or mildly. It is never smart to be overly confident about sin (1 Cor. 10:12).
2. A GENUINE desire for inward righteousness will lead one to offer this petition CONTINUOUSLY. An attitude toward sin which God has will cause hatred of sin and intense hunger to be like Jesus.

### **III. A CONSCIOUSNESS OF PERSONAL WEAKNESS WILL CAUSE ONE TO OFFER THIS PETITION**

1. Peter was OVERLY confident about his life and loyalty to Jesus (Matthew 26:33-35)
  - Peter fell asleep and did not pray.
  - Human weaknesses caused him to follow "afar off" and then deny ever knowing Jesus.
2. The Apostle Paul had a great fear of failure that produced an attitude of humility, trust and discipline. (1 Corinthians 9:27).

#### **IV. JESUS TEACHES US TO PRAY FOR HELP WHEN TEMPTATION COMES**

1. God is our greatest defense in temptation. One must totally rely upon Him for power to overcome.
2. PERSONAL defenses can also be used for victory:
  - Self-respect (We are somebody in God's sight.)
  - Christian training (Sunday School, Bible Studies, etc.)
  - Concern for those we love, those who love us.
  - Memorized scriptures brings inward strength.
  - The desire for God's approval.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Cooperation with Jesus will bring victory.
2. Do as Jesus teaches and the Christian life will be easier. (1 John 4:4).