"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one."

THE LORD'S PRAYER / MATTHEW 6

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THE LORD'S PRAYER / MATTHEW 6

*"God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one."*

JAMES 1:13

*“peirasmos”* **(grk.)**

a trial, a test, or a temptation

**Sometimes the very same circumstances that *tests* our faith can also become an opportunity for *temptation*...**

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TESTING & TEMPTATION

God's purpose in testing is to strengthen our faith.

Temptation seeks to draw us away from God and into sin.

# *"Lead us not into temptation..."*

## *"LORD, OPEN MY EYES..."*

Help me recognize temptation before it takes root.

*"But each person is tempted when he is **lured** and **enticed** by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death."*

JAMES 1:14-15 ESV

Temptation often appeals to something we *already* want.

# *“over-desires”*

The idea is that sometimes sin involves taking something good and wanting it so badly that we're willing to disobey God to obtain it.

# We can't wisely respond to a temptation we refuse to acknowledge.

**How can you know when to *RESIST* temptation and when to *ENDURE* a test...**
**...if you haven't learned to recognize the difference?**

**Recognizing temptation *isn't* the same as resisting it.**

*"So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."*

2 TIMOTHY 2:22

*"So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."*

2 TIMOTHY 2:22

*"So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."*

2 TIMOTHY 2:22

“ALONG WITH THOSE WHO CALL ON THE LORD FROM A PURE HEART."

# We were never meant to fight our spiritual battles alone.

**If you already know something is repeatedly leading you into temptation, *why do you keep giving it access to your life?***

**Do I really want to WALK in obedience...**
**...or do I just want to STOP FEELING GUILTY about my disobedience?**

*“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.”*

JAMES 5:16

# *“Lead us not into temptation…”*

***“LORD, OPEN MY EYES…”***

Help me recognize temptation before it takes root.

***“LORD, SURRENDER MY WILL…”***

Help me choose obedience even when it's difficult.

36 Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called
Gethsemane, and he said to them, *"Sit here while I go over there and*
*pray."* 37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with
him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he
said to them, *"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of*
*death. Stay here and keep watch with me."*

MATTHEW 26:36-38

*“My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”*

MATTHEW 26:39

**The real enemy is *evil*, not *pain*.**

TIM KELLER

**Sometimes we become so desperate to avoid pain/discomfort that we're willing to disobey God just to escape it.**

**When we bring our suffering to Jesus, we're coming to someone who understands.**

7 While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God. 8 Even though Jesus was God's Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered.

HEBREWS 5:7-9

# *"Lead us not into temptation..."*

***"LORD, OPEN MY EYES..."***

Help me recognize temptation before it takes root.

***"LORD, SURRENDER MY WILL..."***

Help me choose obedience even when it's difficult.

***"LORD, STRENGTHEN MY SPIRIT..."***

Help me remain watchful and dependent on You.

40 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. *"Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?"* he asked Peter.

MATTHEW 26:40

*41 “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”*

MATTHEW 26:41

WE MUST WATCH AND PRAY BECAUSE…

# There will be moments when our good intentions simply aren't enough.

*"Even if I must die with you,*
*I will not deny you!"*

MATTHEW 26:35

***"The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."***

**We are far more vulnerable when we rely on our own strength than we realize...**

Sometimes the *most dangerous words* we can say are:
*"I CAN HANDLE IT."*



*1 God is our refuge and*
*strength, an ever-present help*
*in trouble.*
*2 Therefore we will not fear,*
*though the earth give way and*
*the mountains fall into the*
*heart of the sea,*
*3 though its waters roar and*
*foam and the mountains quake*
*with their surging…”*

PSALM 46:1-3



15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

HEBREWS 4:15-16

Your failure doesn't have to be the end of your story.

# Three Prayer Invitations...

***"LORD, OPEN MY EYES..."***

# Three Prayer Invitations...

## *"LORD, OPEN MY EYES..."*

- What is one temptation you need to stop minimizing?

# Three Prayer Invitations...

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- What is one practical step of obedience you need to take?

# Three Prayer Invitations...

## *"LORD, OPEN MY EYES..."*

- What is one temptation you need to stop minimizing?
- What is one practical step of obedience you need to take?

***Don't simply recognize what God is showing you... Ask Him for the grace/power/courage to respond.***

# Three Prayer Invitations...

***"LORD, SURRENDER MY WILL..."***

# Three Prayer Invitations...

## *"LORD, SURRENDER MY WILL..."*

And you know what obedience looks like...
BUT YOU'RE STRUGGLING TO SAY YES TO GOD.

# Three Prayer Invitations...

## *"LORD, SURRENDER MY WILL..."*

And you know what obedience looks like...
BUT YOU'RE STRUGGLING TO SAY YES TO GOD.

***"FATHER, HELP ME TRUST YOU ENOUGH TO OBEY YOU... EVEN WHEN IT'S DIFFICULT."***

# Three Prayer Invitations...

*"LORD, STRENGTHEN MY SPIRIT..."*

# Three Prayer Invitations...

## *"LORD, STRENGTHEN MY SPIRIT..."*

Just like Peter, by God's grace...
your failure doesn't have to be the end of your story.
**JESUS INVITES YOU TO COME TO HIM.**

# Three Prayer Invitations...

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