

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE SIXTH PETITION

DEVOTION

AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION.

What does this mean? God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, or other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

FOR SHARING

1. Temptation! The word brings to mind our human weakness and limitations. List common temptations in our world today.
2. Luther reminds us that the unholy trinity—the devil, the world, and our own sinful nature—often lead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. He also commented, “You can’t keep the birds from flying overhead, but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair.” Explain.
3. Paul writes that God will “provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure” temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13). How has God strengthened you to endure temptation? What “escapes” has He provided?
4. Jesus faced temptation, was obedient to His heavenly Father, and defeated the devil (Matthew 4). Later, He showed His complete, perfect obedience in suffering and dying for our sins. In what ways can Jesus’ sacrificial obedience help us when we are tempted?
5. In what ways can Christians help and support one another in times of temptation?

PRAYER

Lead not into temptation, Lord, Where our grim foe and all his horde
Would vex our souls on ev’ry hand.
Help us resist, help us to stand Firm in the faith, armed with Your might;
Your Spirit gives Your children light.

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