



A Systematic Expository Study of the Word of God

Special Study:

## **DIVINE GUIDANCE AND PROTECTION THROUGH PRAYER**

### **Matthew 6:13**

We now come to consider the final petition in the Lord's Prayer. "**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil**". Our Saviour and Lord cautions us against self-confidence and over-confidence as He teaches us to pray this way. He knows that the best of His disciples and the greatest of kingdom citizens need divine help and strength to overcome temptation and all evil. He knows how strong the wiles and snares of the evil one are; He knows how weak the flesh is even when the spirit is willing; He knows how determined the evil one is to defeat and destroy believers through temptation. So He teaches us to pray that God will prevent us and protect us from the path and power of temptation. Yet, we live in the world which is under the influence and control of the evil one, a world of evil workers, an evil world. Our safety and security is in our God who has all power to "**deliver us from evil**". He is able and He is willing to deliver us from all evil. The doxology gives us unshakeable assurance to expect the answer to our prayer. "**For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen**". From eternity past till eternity future with the present time in between, our God is the King of power and glory.

### **PRAYING TO ESCAPE AND OVERCOME TEMPTATIONS**

Matthew 6:13; 26:41; 1 Corinthians 10:13; James 1:13-16; 1 Timothy 6:9-11; Luke 22:31-33,46; Hebrews 2:18; 2 Peter 2:9; Revelation 3:10; Hebrews 4:14-16.

"**And lead us not into temptation**". Temptation here is very broad in its meaning. It includes trials, difficult circumstances, violent assaults from Satan. God does not tempt any man, but often, whatever He permits is spoken of as if He did it. "**Lead us not into temptation**" means do not permit us to be tempted above our strength of endurance; do not permit unbearable trials that may lead to temptation to sin. Watch over us and watch to restrain and limit trials, affliction, anything that tests our virtues. Preserve us from tests, trials, troubles, temptations that may lead us astray. For this prayer to be answered, it must be preceded and followed by an earnest effort on our part to keep out of temptation. We must watch; we must be on our guard. We must pray earnestly, seeking for God's strength and protection. We cannot pray that there will be no temptations; we can only pray that we shall not be overcome by the temptations. God is a loving, faithful Father. He will not allow us to be tempted above our strength. As trials and temptations come, He will give us sufficient strength to be victorious.

### **PROTECTION FROM THE EVIL AND OPPRESSIVE TEMPTER**

Matthew 6:13; Psalm 121:7; Jeremiah 15:21; John 17:15; Galatians 1:4; Ephesians 6:10-13; Hebrews 2:14,15; 1 John 5:18,19; 2 Timothy 4:17,18; 1 Peter 5:8,9.

"**But deliver us from evil**" - deliver us from the evil one and from all evil. Deliver us from Satan, from his power, from his snares, from his wiles, from his evil plans, from his agents, from all his works. Satan is the great parent of all evil and to be delivered from him is to be safe. The petition is a prayer of deliverance from all evil of whatever kind - not only from sin but from all its consequences - fully and finally.

To offer this prayer sincerely, we ourselves must reject "**the root of all evil**", "**abstain from all appearance of evil**", beware of "**an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God**", be "**cleansed from an evil conscience**", "**abhor that which is evil**", "**depart from evil**" and "**beware of evil workers**" (1 Timothy 6:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:22; Hebrews 3:12; 10:22; Romans 12:9; Psalm 34:14; Philippians 3:2). If we truly desire to be delivered and protected from evil, we shall

not hide any evil within us. Believers are confident that God will deliver them from all evil because of His love, His promises of deliverance and the prayer of Christ for them. God will keep us from the evil one, from the evil world and from all evil.

## **PREEMINENCE OF THE ETERNAL AND HIS OVERALL TRIUMPH**

Matthew 6:13; 1Chronicles 29:11; Psalms 10:16; 47:2,7-9; 145:10-13; Daniel 4:25,34,35; 1 Timothy 1:17; 6:15,16; Revelation 5:13; 19:1,4; 1 Chronicles 16:36; Psalm 72:18,19.

The Lord's Prayer begins with God and ends with God. He is declared to be God, our Father, whose Name is to be hallowed, honoured and exalted. He is King whose Kingdom will rule over all. He is Lord whose will will be done universally and eternally. Now, at the end of the prayer, He is the preeminent One having all authority, all power and all glory of the everlasting Kingdom.

*'God is the eternal, independent, and self-existed Being whose purposes and actions spring from Himself. He is absolute in dominion; the most pure, the most mighty and powerful, infinitely benevolent, beneficent, true and holy, the Creator and upholder of all things; infinitely happy, infinitely perfect and eternally self-sufficient; illimitable in His immensity and indescribable in His essence; known fully only to Himself. He is infinite in wisdom; He cannot err or be deceived and from His infinite goodness, can do nothing but what is eternally just, and right and kind' (Adam Clarke). This God is our Father and to Him we pray.*

If you are blessed by these bible study outlines, we'd like to hear from you.  
You can email the [pastor@dclm-liverpool.org.uk](mailto:pastor@dclm-liverpool.org.uk) with your comments