

✍ **Finally, we are down to the last request of this model prayer, “lead us not into temptation.”** When it comes to temptation, we are fooled into thinking that the biggest threat is somewhere outside of us, i.e., the world and the devil. The fact of the matter is that our greatest threat by far is not what’s on the outside but what’s on the inside of us, Jeremiah 17:9; James 1:13-15. Let’s be reminded of what we learned last time from Oswald Chambers, “The purpose of prayer is not that we get ahold of an answer but that we get ahold of God.” The purpose of prayer is not to make us more independent and self-reliant, that would be disastrous for us, but that is what we seek when we only seek answers. The purpose of prayer is to make us more dependent on God because only He can debug us and protect us from the world, the devil and especially ourselves.

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### **1. God does not tempt us to do evil, James 1:13.**

- ✓ We are to blame for our temptation and sin. Why, then, does Jesus tell us to ask God not to lead us into temptation if it already says that God would never do that?? This is the cry of sober believer that knows what he’s up against, he knows his chances alone against the devil, the world and especially his own heart are slim to none. Spiritual sobriety, the priority of the model prayer that Jesus has taught us is God’s glory and our humility, if we are thinking and praying that way, we are sober.
- ✓ Matthew 5:3, being strong in spirit is the biggest lie your heart will tell you. Luke 9:23, since this is the disciple’s prayer, the key will be denying ourselves! Think of the Lord’s prayer as a prayer for sobriety, if you think God’s glory is the most important thing, you are sober. If you think you’re dependent on Him for your sustenance, you are sober. If you think you’re dependent on Him for the most important thing in your life which is forgiveness, you are sober. If you think you’re dependent on Him for not falling to temptation, you’re sober.

### **2. God doesn’t lead us into temptation, so why even ask?**

- ✓ Not because of what God will do, but because of what we will do. The word for temptation in the Greek is actually a neutral word, it can mean “temptation” and it can mean “test” depending on how its applied. God allows tests in our lives, right? We are to expect them and rejoice in them!, James 1:2-3; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:6-7. This word can mean test or temptation. God leads us into tests, but our sinful natures and the world and the devil can turn it into a temptation. When does a test become a temptation? It’s all up to how you handle it and that should scare you.
- ✓ Denying ourselves isn’t just so that God can be honored but it is also for our protection. This is a request that is born out of self-distrust, I know myself, I know my weaknesses, I’m afraid of the shallowness of my devotion. God put Abraham to the test in Genesis 22:1-2. Would that have been too much for you? Would that have been a test, or would it have tempted you to not to do what was right? Job got put to the test; he lost everything including his children and his health in very short order, but it was a test for him because he passed, what about for his wife?, Job 2:9-10. Lead me not into temptation equals “Don’t let me get into something that I will fail at and dishonor You and hurt myself.” Deliver me from evil or the evil one, the devil wants me to fail, he doesn’t want this to improve me, like a test would, but to destroy me, like a temptation would.

**Who decides whether it’s a temptation or a test? You do! That ought to scare you! It’s not just trying things that try us, but blessings also try us, Proverbs 27:21.** We see it all the time: a man who walks with God faithfully until big blessings role into his life, are those blessings a test or a temptation? It’s all about how he handles it! When things are tough and difficulties overwhelm us, we need to humble ourselves, “God, please don’t let this swallow me up, I know my sin nature, I know what I’m capable of. Keep this from becoming sin for me.” When things start coming up roses and a windfall is on the horizon, “God, please don’t let this swallow me up, I know my heart and how deceitful it can be, keep me from turning this into something evil.”