

Wisdom Not Worry
Thursday, June 25, 2020

“Lead us not into temptation. Deliver us from the evil one.”

James, Jesus’ half-brother, wrote, “When tempted, no one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone” (James 1: 13). Seems strange, does it not, that Jesus would then instruct us to ask the Father not to lead us into temptation.

While the holiness of God makes it impossible for Him to tempt us to sin, He often leads us into situations in which our allegiances are tested. Think of how many times a day you are faced with the choice between obedience or disobedience, the Word or the world, wisdom or worry, faith or fear. Praying “Lead us not into temptation” expresses our desperate need of Jesus in those moments. You see, Jesus too was led into a situation of temptation - “Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil” (Matt. 4:1). In fact, every temptation we face, He faced and won. Indeed, “He was tempted in every way that we are, yet was without sin” (Hebrews 4:15).

This prayer reminds us of our vulnerability to temptation and the One who gives us victory over temptation. So today, when you are faced with temptation, turn to His “throne of grace with confidence so that you may receive mercy and find grace to help you in your time of need” (Hebrews 4:15).

Grateful,
Pastor Ben