



Honest to God

A Master Class in the Lord's Prayer

Session 9 – Lead Us Not into Temptation

Trouble. As Job said, we are born to it as surely as the sparks fly upward. There is no such thing as a trouble-free life. Think of the caterpillar being transformed into a butterfly. Hard to imagine such an earthbound, grubby little creature could ever fly! But something happens inside that cocoon. When the time comes to emerge, the young butterfly works hard to break through that chrysalis. Without struggle, it would have puny little wings and no strength to fly.

Troubles and temptation are not easy and certainly not pleasant. But God permits the struggle so we can emerge from that chrysalis of testing with fully developed faith.

Goals for this Session:

- Discover the difference between troubles and temptation.
- Consider how God uses life's problems and our prayers to accomplish His plan.
- Examine why God stores His treasure in jars of clay.
- Pray honest prayers that lead to praise and hold steady with hope.

Ice Breaker

Our culture changes the meaning of words like *sinful* or *tempting* in ordinary conversation. In what ways? How might that minimize their effectiveness in the church?

Day One – The Big Idea

Read **Matthew 6:13**, **John 17:14–17** and **1 Peter 5:6–10** to get the overall idea. Follow the text closely but without getting bogged down in details.

1. What is the central topic? State the main point of this passage in a sentence or two.
2. What insight does this give you into God's ways and our relationship to Him?
3. The Bible shapes our core beliefs about God and our conduct toward others. Share one takeaway lesson from this passage and how you can apply it to your life.

Day Two – Real Change Is an Inside Job

Read James 1:12–14.

When we pray *lead us not into temptation*, we’re asking God to protect us from ambush by the enemy’s tactics and our own weakness. At the same time, it’s a prayer for strength to endure troubles that test our faith.

1. Jesus taught the disciples to pray for protection from temptation. The Lord knew perfectly well what His followers would be up against. It isn’t a sin to be tempted, for even Jesus faced temptation and left us an example to follow. How is temptation resisted and overcome?

Matthew 4:1–11

James 4:7–8

2. In the Lord’s Prayer, the word used for temptation also means testing. Using James 1:12–14, explain the difference between a test (trial) and being tempted.

**“I have had more
trouble with myself
than with any other
man I have ever
met.”**

D.L. Moody

God does not prevent us from being tempted, but He will always provide a way out. When trouble comes, by temptation or through a trial, it’s an opportunity to trust God. Real change is an inside job and strangely enough, both are useful in developing strong faith. It’s been suggested that when you aren’t experiencing trouble or temptation, pray *lead us not*—and when you *are* in trouble or temptation, pray *deliver us*. Agree? Share your thoughts.

3. Some temptations are meant to charm us and some are designed to cheat us. Either way, the devil’s end game is to chain us. As a growing Christian, the daily feed of temptations you used to struggle with may go right into the “spam” file now, without even a look. But the enemy has subtle ways of getting us to open his mail. Consider a few of the more common (as in familiar and frequent) temptations we might face.

Note what the Bible says and identify some ways this temptation might play out in everyday life. Briefly explain the effect it can have and practical ways to resist it.

Grumble / Complain – Philippians 2:14

Charm Cheat Both

Lack of Self-Control – Proverbs 25:28

Charm Cheat Both

Tongue Control – James 3:5, Ephesians 4:29

Charm Cheat Both

Jealousy and Selfish Ambition – James 3:14–16

Charm Cheat Both

Love of Money – Hebrews 13:5

Charm Cheat Both

Weary in Doing Good – Galatians 6:9–10

Charm Cheat Both

Memory Verse

Write the verse and let it be part of your prayers every day. Ask the Holy Spirit to work it into your heart and mind.

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 ESV

Think it over . . .

When it comes to temptation, why is running always the best option?

Day Three – Deliver Us from the Evil One

Read John 17:14–17 and 1 Peter 5:6–10.

When we pray *deliver us from the evil one*, we concede our own weakness against Satan’s strategies and plead for the greater power of God.

1. Wherever Christians proclaim and live out the gospel, the enemy will oppose them. But we don’t face trouble alone or in our own strength. We have rock-solid assurances from God’s Word. Who prays for us, and what can we *always* be certain of?

John 17:14–17

Hebrews 7:25

1 John 4:4

2. **Stay Alert, Stand Firm** – 1 Peter 5:6–10. Peter was, by nature, fearless and outspoken. Confidence made him a good leader, but famously got him into trouble on more than one occasion. When the devil looks at **confidence**, he focuses on how to use the first syllable.

- a. On the night He was betrayed, Jesus warned Peter that Satan wanted to sift him like wheat. Peter was confident he could handle it (Luke 22:31–34). Jesus prayed for Peter that night, and it was an older, wiser Peter who wrote this letter to the church. Do you detect aspects of Peter’s past experience coming through his counsel? In what way?

- b. For you personally, what stands out most about Peter’s counsel in 1 Peter 5:6–10?

- c. We need to be alert and aware of the evil one, but never forget who guards your soul. God’s eye is on you and He will work everything for your good.

2 Chronicles 16:9

Romans 8:28–29

- d. Do you find yourself digging more into God’s Word when the pressure is on? Share a favorite verse you go to when you need strength for the battle.

3. **Treasure in Clay Jars** – 2 Corinthians 4:5–9. We keep valuables safely locked in vaults. But God chooses to store His treasure, the Gospel, only in vulnerable human containers. We are fragile, breakable clay jars, but the light that is shining in our hearts cannot be extinguished.

The enemy knows this, and hates it. Paul describes his trouble and declares what the enemy failed to do.

Outward Opposition

- But Not -

Inner Effects

Hard pressed (restricted; confined)
 Perplexed (unsure of how to proceed)
 Persecuted (persistently hassled)
 Struck Down (suddenly thrown; laid flat)

Crushed (demoralized; stymied)
 Despair (without resource or hope)
 Forsaken (dropped; deserted)
 Destroyed (reduced to nothing)

- a. Paul did not preach himself—but he certainly preached *to* himself on a regular basis, and so must we. The devil can't extinguish the power of the Gospel but he can get us to hide our light. Corrie ten Boom, who survived the horrors of Ravensbrück, was fond of saying that God has plans, not problems, for our lives. The darker life got, the brighter and more beautiful the Gospel was for her to share. Do we believe it?

Maybe you can relate to Paul's experience in some way. Is the enemy trying to prevent your light from shining through some difficulty? If you believe God has Jeremiah 29:11 plans for you in spite of the problem, use the space below as a simple prayer.

_____ - But Not - _____

- b. Paul was not immune to trouble, but he trusted God to protect him from spiritual harm. How does Paul express confidence in God's protection?

Romans 8:31, 37

2 Timothy 4:18

Memory Verse

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 but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape,
 that you may be able to endure it.

1 Corinthians 10:13 ESV

Think it over . . .

What might a God-chosen way of escape look like? What might a human response look like?

Day Four – Your Kingdom, Your Power, Your Glory...Forever. Amen!

Read 1 Chronicles 29:10–13.

When we pray *deliver us from the evil one*, we are looking forward to the day when every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. It will be the last prayer of all to be answered. God's kingdom will come. God's will on earth will be done just as it is in Heaven.

1. We finished our ***David: Profiles of an Authentic Life*** series with King David's prayer as he dedicated the future building of the Lord's house. David stood in the place where the temple would be, but was not yet. It is remarkable how similar David's prayer is to the Lord's Prayer. Do you see it? He was praying and praising God for the now and *someday*. And in this last phrase of the Lord's Prayer, *we* are praying and praising God for the now and *someday*.

It has been said that a believer's life is really marked by only two days on the calendar: this day, and THAT DAY. Give that some thought. What does it mean and how do you want that to be reflected in your life and prayers?

2. David's prayer book is the Psalms, and it is our prayer book too. In 150 separate psalms, we are taught to pray our needs and emotions in healthy, instructive ways. And mostly, we learn to pray our praise. The Lord's Prayer covers the same landscape in 66 words. We hope you will continue to use this pattern of prayer and let it inform the way you read, think, and pray through every other part of the Bible.

Finish your time today with a simple, one-sentence prayer for each:

Your Kingdom

Your Power

Your Glory

Forever!

Day Five – Honest to God: A Master Class in Prayer

This will be the layout for the last day throughout this series. Just choose some scripture, insight, or the Memory Verse and *pray it*.

A doration ...

C onfession ...

T hanksgiving ...

S upplication ...

Memory Verse

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1 Corinthians 10:13 ESV

And When You Pray ...

“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” —Ephesians 6:18 NIV

“Prayer is not just getting God to move. It’s the process through which God moves and changes us. Prayer will not only transform what you pray about; it will transform you.”

Greg Laurie

For you personally, what has been the most important discovery or insight from this study?

How will you put living it into practice in the days ahead?

Prayer Requests
