

# The Lord's Prayer: The Sixth Petition

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 lead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

One of the passages which help us understand this petition is **Matthew 4:1-11**. This is Matthew's account of the temptation of Christ right after He was baptized. This tells us that Jesus was tempted by Satan and won the victory for us. But He also showed us how we can overcome temptation in this passage (read **Matthew 4:1-11**). Each time Satan tempted Him, Jesus won by quoting Scripture, specifically from the book of **Deuteronomy**, a book of Law. This serves to reinforce how important it is for us to read, study, and memorize all the different parts of Scripture, not just our favorite parts. It is the best defense we have when it comes to temptation.

In **Ephesians 6**, Paul is talking about putting on the whole armor of God. What is armor? It's something a soldier wears to protect him in battle. He mentions things like the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, shoes of the Gospel of peace, the shield of faith, and the helmet of salvation. We are in a war. All these pieces of armor are defensive, used for our protection. But there is one that is offensive, which we are to go on the attack with. The last one he mentions is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, the Bible. Do you want to be able to stand against temptation? Take up the Word of God.

## Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. **2**And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. **3**And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." **4**But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

**5**Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple **6**and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"

**7**Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" **8**Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. **9**And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." **10**Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."

**11**Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.