

The Lord's Prayer: The Seventh Petition

But deliver us from evil.

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

Have you ever had anything bad happen to you? Bad things happen to everyone. One of the things I tell my granddaughters when they get upset over something in their life is, "Don't worry. You'll have a lot more disappointments as you grow up." I'm sure hearing that gives them peace and comfort in their present problems. But it's true. A big part of life is learning how to handle disappointments and bad things that happen to us that we can't do anything about. That's why we pray, "Deliver us from evil" and not, "keep evil away from us." We know God will deliver us from evil because He already has. He even gave up His own Son to deliver us from the worst evil of all, sin. And because Jesus died for us, when the final evil, death, happens, God will take us to heaven to live with Him forever.

Prayer:

Father, see us through the bad things that happen to us and take us home to live with You when our life is over. Amen.