

THE LARGER AND SHORTER CATECHISMS.

HAVING SEEN WHAT THE SCRIPTURES PRINCIPALLY TEACH US CONCERNING GOD, IT
FOLLOWS TO CONSIDER WHAT THEY REQUIRE AS THE DUTY OF MAN

QUESTIONS # 195 & 106.

(Larger Catechism)

Q #195. *What do we pray for in the sixth petition?*

A. In the sixth petition, (which is, *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,*¹) acknowledging, that the most wise, righteous, and gracious God, for divers holy and just ends, may so order things, that we may be assaulted, foiled, and for a time led captive by temptations;² that Satan,³ the world,⁴ and the flesh, are ready powerfully to draw us aside, and ensnare us;⁵ and that we, even after the pardon of our sins, by reason of our corruption,⁶ weakness, and want of watchfulness,⁷ are not only subject to be tempted, and forward to expose ourselves unto temptations,⁸ but also of ourselves unable and unwilling to resist them, to recover out of them, and to improve them;⁹ and worthy to be left under the power of them:¹⁰ we pray, that God would so over-rule the world and all in it,¹¹ subdue the flesh,¹² and restrain Satan,¹³ order all things,¹⁴ bestow and bless all means of grace,¹⁵ and quicken us to watchfulness in the use of them, that we and all his people may by his providence be kept from being tempted to sin;¹⁶ or, if tempted, that by his Spirit we may be powerfully supported and enabled to stand in the hour of temptation;¹⁷ or when fallen, raised again and recovered out of it,¹⁸ and have a sanctified use and improvement thereof:¹⁹ that our sanctification and salvation may be perfected,²⁰ Satan trodden under our feet,²¹ and we fully freed from sin, temptation, and all evil, for ever.²²

¹ Matt. 6:13.

² 2 Chron. 32:31.

³ 1 Chron. 21:1.

⁴ Luke 21:34, Mark 4:19.

⁵ Jas. 1:14.

⁶ Gal. 5:17.

⁷ Matt. 26:41.

⁸ Matt. 26:69-72; Gal. 2:11-14; 2 Chron. 18:3; 19:2.

⁹ Rom. 7:23, 24; 1 Chron. 21:1-4; 2 Chron. 16:7-10.

¹⁰ Ps. 81:11, 12.

¹¹ John 17:15.

¹² Ps. 51:10; 119:133.

¹³ 2 Cor. 12:7, 8.

¹⁴ 1 Cor. 10:12, 13.

¹⁵ Heb. 13:20, 21.

¹⁶ Matt. 26:41; Ps. 19:13.

¹⁷ Eph. 3:14-17; 1 Thess. 3:13; Jude 24.

¹⁸ Ps. 51:12.

¹⁹ 1 Pet. 5:8-10.

²⁰ 2 Cor. 13:7, 9.

²¹ Rom. 16:20; Zech. 3:2; Luke 22:31, 32.

(Shorter Catechism)

Q #106. *What do we pray for in the sixth petition?*

A. In the sixth petition, (which is, *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,*²³) we pray, That God would either keep us from being tempted to sin,²⁴ or support and deliver us when we are tempted.²⁵

Question 1—*What is meant by temptation in the sixth petition?*

Answer—By *temptation*, is meant any trial made upon a man to see what is in him, and what he will do; and so in the matter it is designed to bring forth may be good as well as evil, Gen. 22:1. Yet, ordinarily, it is taken in an evil sense, as a tempting to sin, *cf.* Luke 8:13. In this sense, which is in view in this petition, there are four things which ought to be considered:

First, there is the party tempted, or liable to be tempted, which includes ourselves and others, who live in this world with its various pits and snares, Song 4:8. Those who are joined to the upper house of glory are beyond the reach of temptation, they are out of the range of Satan's chain, which extends not from this world, Rev. 12:9. The first man, Adam, was subjected to this temptation, Gen. 3:1, 6; this same thing befell, the second man, the last Adam, Jesus Christ, Mark 1:13. It should come as no surprise then that Satan should fall to attack us, particularly as we have Christ as our bosom friend, *cf.* John 15:20.

Second, there are the parties that are tempting: 1.) The grand tempter, even the devil himself, Matt. 4:3. He was an angel of light, but has now become a tempting devil, Luke 10:18. He is an apostate from God, for whom there is no hope, Matt. 25:41; and being an irreconcilable enemy, he goes about seeking to undo men for all eternity, 1 Pet. 5:8. He now has several thousand years' experience tempting men and destroying them, whereby it increases the care which should be taken in the face of this enemy, Eph. 6:11. 2.) Men are also tempters to one another, as Satan prevails upon them, acting sometimes to drive others into sin by force, Acts 26:11. Other times, they seek to draw them gently into it, Gen. 39:7. Satan is so crafty that he enlists not only wicked men, but sometimes also godly men, to this work of tempting to sin, as in the case of Peter, Matt. 16:22, 23. 3.) The lusts of the heart are temptations to every man, Jas. 1:14. This is a most dangerous enemy because they lie in every man's own bosom and they are, in their own nature, deceitful, furnishing the heart of man with many dark perversions, Jer. 17:9.

Third, there are the baits under which are hidden some seeming good, alluring to the satisfying of some lust or distemper; thus, for Demas, it was this present world, 2 Tim. 4:10; for Judas, it was thirty pieces of silver, Matt. 26:15. In driving temptations, the bait is some seeming good to be kept or got, by preventing some perceived evil, Matt. 13:21. Thus, it is no small advantage when we are given the grace to perceive the hurt in the bait, Matt. 16:26.

Fourth, in all of this business, there is a mischievous design, which is the ruin of that party who, falling into sin, is made subject to the misery of sin, 1 Cor. 10:12.

²² John 17:15; 1 Thess. 5:23.

²³ Matt. 6:13.

²⁴ Matt. 26:41.

²⁵ 2 Cor. 12:7, 8.

Question 2—*What is supposed by this sixth petition?*

Answer—When we are taught this petition, *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil*, Matt. 6:13; it is supposed that man, in this imperfect state, is very much exposed to temptations, Rom. 13:11-13. This second spiritual petition supposes that though our sins be forgiven, according to the fifth petition, we still stand in need of gracious supplies that we are not carried away into more sin, Luke 11:4.

The world is always ready to present us with snares suited to the corruption of our nature, filling our hearts with its cares, Luke 21:34; Mark 4:19. The influence of these lures is farther promoted by the suggestions of Satan, who daily endeavors to entangle us in the snare which he lays for us, 1 Chron. 21:1.

The greatest danger, however, does not lay in the many snares laid to draw us aside from God, but from the treachery of our own hearts, Gen. 8:21. So that, even after the pardon of sins, by reason of the remaining corruption of nature, we are very apt to commit those sins which involve a great deal of guilt, Gal. 5:17. It also proceeds from a lack of watchfulness, Matt. 26:41; the consequence of which is, the enemy comes upon us undiscovered, and we are overcome before we are aware, Isa. 8:15. Thus, it comes to pass, that we are not only subjected to be tempted, but we ourselves help forward the temptation by exposing ourselves to it, Matt. 26:69-72; Gal. 2:11-14; 2 Chron. 18:3; 19:2. In this case, the temptation offers itself, and we are not only unable, but unwilling to resist it, Rom. 7:23, 24; and if we have fallen by temptation, our fall tends still more to weaken us, so that we cannot recover out of the pit into which we have fallen, 1 Chron. 21:1-4. We also find it very difficult, if God is pleased, at any time, to suffer us to fall by temptations, to improve our falls aright to his glory and our own good, 2 Chron. 16:7-10. In this, we demonstrate that we are worthy to be left in them, Ps. 81:11, 12.

Additionally, we are led to acknowledge that God, being most wise, righteous and gracious, may so order things so that we are for a time led captive by temptation, for his holy and just ends, 2 Chron. 32:31. The sinful and evil ends of these temptations arise, not from God, but from ourselves and our own corrupt nature, whereby all the works of God's providence and grace may provide temptations to men, Ps. 73:3.

Question 3—*What is the concern of the sixth petition?*

Answer—The sixth petition of the Lord's prayer consists in two concerns:

First, that God would so over rule the world and all that is in it, that we might be kept from the evil of sin, John 17:15. To this end, we must seek the subduing of the flesh, through the regeneration of our hearts, Ps. 51:10; and the sanctification of our actions, Ps. 119:133. We also have need that God would restrain our adversary, the devil, lest he spread a net for our feet, 2 Cor. 12:7, 8. Likewise, that God order all things so as to keep us from the fatal falls, 1 Cor. 10:12, 13. Finally, that he would be pleased to bestow and bless all means of grace effectually to keep his commands, Heb. 13:20, 21. Thereby making us watchful so that we might be kept from being tempted, Matt. 26:41; Ps. 19:13.

Second, that, if tempted, that we might by his Spirit be empowered to stand in that hour, Eph. 3:14-17; which is the greatest deliverance from sin, 1 Thess. 3:13; Jude 24. Or, if we fall, that he would raise us and recover us, Ps. 51:12; having a sanctified use and improvement therein for us, 1 Pet. 5:8-10. In this deliverance, we ought to seek that our sanctification and salvation are perfected, 2 Cor. 13:7, 9; that Satan is bruised under our feet, Rom. 16:20; Zech. 3:2; Luke 22:31, 32; and that we are finally freed from all sin, 1 Thess. 5:23.