

The Lord's Prayer

"Lead Us Not Into Temptation"

Does God Lead Men Into Temptation?

- No - see James 1:13.
- Yes - see Matthew 4:1; Genesis 22:1; also compare 2Samuel 24:1 with 1Chronicles 21:1.
- How do we reconcile these verses and ideas?

Does God Lead Men Into Temptation?

- Thomas Watson - verse means that we are asking God to keep us from being overcome by temptation; i.e. keep us from sinning.
- Problem: verse doesn't say this.

Does God Lead Men Into Temptation?

- We must remember the distinction between "tempted to sin" and "having your faith tested."
- "Do not lead us into a situation where our faith is seriously tested by evil (very difficult) circumstances." (Look again at Abraham in Genesis 22. Is this a temptation, or a test?)
- See Matthew 26:41; Mark 13:33.

What Is The Difference Between "Tempted" And "Tested?"

- Same Greek word. Ultimately, the concepts are connected.
- The circumstances of temptation deal with sin. The circumstances of testing are, in themselves, neither sinful nor un-sinful.
- Temptation may come under a variety of circumstances. Testing comes under difficult circumstances.
- Temptation is directly aimed at a particular sin now. Testing is aimed at your overall faith and trust in God.

Why Pray "Do Not Lead Us Into Temptation?"

- If we pray, does that mean it won't happen? (Job; Christ). --> "No."
- We must understand how fragile our faith really is. If not for God's upholding, we would all deny the faith.
- Prayer is a means God uses to bestow the very thing He has ordained to give. Thus, He promises to preserve us (1Cor. 10:13). He does so by using our and Christ's (John 17:15) prayers.

What Do We Do When We Find Ourselves Being Tested?

- It will happen to all of us in one way or another.
- Do not be presumptuous about the danger.
Have you asked God to preserve your faith?
- Remember that, if God has promised to preserve us through testing, then this test must be "conquerable." This allows us to rejoice in it - James 1:3.