



Purpose of Prayer

Matthew 6:13 | Abel Mendez | June 1, 2025

Purpose of Prayer : To Prepare Us To Persevere and To Prevail!

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” (Mt 6:13)

This is an instructional Prayer : “This, then is how you should pray...”

- **Jesus knew first hand the power of prayer and the opposition** that came with it!
- This “Disciples Prayer” was given to **PREPARE** them to **PERSEVERE** and to **PREVAIL**!

If you could summarize Jesus’ the entirety of Jesus Sermons in One Word what would it be?

A: Kingdom

What does Every Kingdom Story (Book, Movie) share in common?

A: Opposition

The Kingdom Protagonist always has a Kingdom Antagonist!

Star Wars we see The Empire | Lord of the Rings we see Sauron | Chronicles of Narnia we see the White Witch

Today we see this Final Part of the Prayer and the Acknowledgement of Evil / Evil One:

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” (Matthew 6:13)

We will look at this last line in these three parts

- **PREPARATION** (Temptation)
- **PERSEVERANCE** (God’s Leading & Deliverance)
- **PREVAILING** (Evil / The Evil One)

Life is Full os Monsoons!

Airplane + Car Graphic : I want you to imagine you are traveling through a monsoon!

- **On an Airplane** : Though I have never had the privilege of seeing the journey from the cockpit I have no doubt felt it! My first experience with turbulence was absolutely terrifying!
- **In a Car** : In my years of driving I have had the experience (not privilege) of driving through insane rain with cars spinning around me!

Monsoons = Overwhelming, intense storms of life, sudden seasons of adversity, being pushed beyond ourselves.

We need this Prayer to PREPARE us to PERSEVERE and ultimately PREVAIL

1. Life is full of **Tests, Trials, Temptations, Tribulations** of **Evil** in the **World**, the **Spirit Realm** and both **External and Internal** **Inside** each one of us!
2. Jesus gave us this prayer to prepare us to persevere and prevail!

We have **VICTORY** because of Jesus! He endured the greatest Test of all and Prevailed, our victory is in HIM! I pray this study would prepare your heart as we come to the Lord’s Table.

Prayer of Preparation : “Lead us not into temptation...”

Life Tests: Troubles, Trials, Temptations, Tribulations...

Temptation (πειρασμός | peirasmos)



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- Trial, Testing, Proving
- Enticement to Sin
- Adversity, Affliction, Trouble, Tribulation

Life is FULL of “Peirasmos” (Tests!) - Airplane / Car Graphic

1. Monsoons = Overwhelming, intense storms of life, sudden seasons of adversity, being pushed beyond ourselves.

Jesus was BORN into a life of Troubles, Trials, Opposition...From his birth to betrayal from the wilderness to Gethsemane and the Cross!!!

- “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.” (Hebrews 4:15)
- Jesus faced every type of temptation and testing we have and even beyond what we have endured!
- Temptations, Betrayal

“Do not be unrealistic in not budgeting for temptation, for foolhardy enough to court it; but when it comes do not doubt God’s power to deliver from the evil it brings.” (J.I. Packer)

Nothing like a Good Test to Reveal what You KNOW and what you DON’T KNOW! (Revealing Character)

- Story of the professor who gave “Surprise Exams” so students would be ready.
- All tests in life reveal what we KNOW and what we DON’T KNOW...
- Life Tests have a way of revealing our true character

Image of Hiking : XCC Character Challenge

- I was so frustrated with my group I began to vocalize belittling cynicism under my breath... The trial had revealed my true character and I did not like what I saw.

We Need to be Prepared for the “Testings” of Life : Hence this Prayer!

The Words of Peter: “Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.” (1 Peter 4:12)

- Dear Friends : You are loved by God, CoPartners in the Gospel, Part of the Kingdom of God!
- Do not Be Surprised : Fiery ordeals, Trials, Testings are nothing New!
- Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego - “The God we serve is able to deliver... but even if he does not... we will not serve your gods...” (Daniel 3:17,18)

The Words of Paul: “...strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God...” (Acts 14:22)

- In season of my greatest trial and test, I dreamt a dream and was awakened in Nicaragua Acts 14:22 in my head.
- I searched and found it and looked at the context surrounding it...
- **Acts :14:19** They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. **20** But after the disciples had gathered around him, **he got up and went back into the city.**

Picture Rocky Balboa : Image



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The Words of Jesus : “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

- What More Could be Said (Image of the Cross) we all have Monsoons to PREPARE for... Tests, Temptations, Trials and tribulations... PERHAPS YOU ARE THERE NOW, LETS

A Prayer to Persevere : “Lead us not... but Deliver us...”

To Not Perish, Brought Through and to Be Rescued

Name that Picture : A Diamond? No Coal | A Glass? No Sand | Gold? No Ore Melted

- Coal hard pressed 55-90 miles deep in the mantle at 1,600°F - 2,300°F produces a diamond.
- Sand melted in a furnace at temperatures 2,550°F - 2,900°F produces glass
- Crushed and Melting (Smelting) Gold Ore at 1,947°F is required to refine gold.

A Prayer of Perseverance : God Bring me Through the Monsoon!

Though at first glance this prayer SEEMS to say LET PROTECTED FROM, the Greek Language actually paints a different picture : TO PROTECTED THROUGH... Tribulation and Evil.

“Not Into” (Ego Eis)

- Into a place to perish, to end
- To be brought throughout, be brought fourth

“Deliver us” (ryomai)

- To draft oneself, to rescue, to rush or draw out.

Picture of Golan Heights : We live in a World that is a SPIRIT MINE FIELD...

- As mentioned earlier : Temptation, Tests, Trials, Tribulations are a part of what it means to be human and to be a believer!
- God guide me through this landmine!

Harvest Crusade : “Lord, I can’t do it.” - “I know you can’t” - Jesus leading me to a life of surrender

- Part of my story, Raised in the faith, failing, trying to be better.
- This Prayer is a Humble Acknowledgement : We Cannot Trust Ourselves!

The Words of Jesus : “Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation, the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (Matthew 26:41)

- Our ‘spirit’ (Lowercase) is willing (desires) but our flesh (bodies and minds) are weak!
- We need Something More
- **WE NEED THE LORD**, We need **HIS SPIRIT**, we need **HIS STRENGTH**!
- And He has promised us **HIS HELPER** the **HOLY SPIRIT** (John 14:26)

The Words of Paul : “No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.” (1 Corinthians 10:13)



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What Paul is saying :

- God is Sovereign : He is Faithful + Beginning and End | Author and Finisher | Who Began & Will Complete!!!
- All God allows is measured : It WILL FEEL LIKE MORE THAN YOU CAN BEAR...
- God is the God who has eternity in mind (Diamond, Gold, Crystal)

He has Given us this PRAYER OF PERSEVERANCE : Picture that Monsoon!

- Whether you are in the sky, or you are on the ground...
- It is scary, beyond ourselves, God bring me through!

"God bring on the test, I trust it will make something beautiful!"

A Prayer to Prevail : "from the evil one."

Victory over Evil in the World, In the Spirit Realm, and In Us!

Evil (ponēros) - Pronounced "pon-ay-ros"

- Evil, Evil Things
- Wicked One, Wicked Person(s)

***"There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence, the other is to believe, and to feel and excessive and unhealthy interest in them."** (C.S. Lewis - Introduction to Screwtape Letters)*

There are essentially 2 Forms of Evil : (No Doubt Evil Exists and is in our World)

1. External EVIL

- **Evil in the World** (Systemic Evils, Governments, Rulers, Genocides, Murders, Rape etc)
- **Evil in the Spirit Realm** (What Paul himself mentions to the Ephesians)
- **Evil in demonic Form** whom Jesus delivered people from!

Ephesians 6:10-12 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

2. Internal EVIL

- There is a form of Evil in us all called Sin... Even Paul the Apostle (Great Church Founder)

Paul's Approach | His Identity in Christ AND the Sin Still in Him...

- **2 Corinthians 5:17** - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!
- **Romans 7:21** - So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

If Sin in us was an Acorn

- If you place the Acorn in the Soil and water it can become an oak!
- If you starve it from the Soil and From Water, It will remain an Acorn



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Notice : Paul Identifies as a NEW CREATION but acknowledges a desire for evil still in him!

- If you wrestle to do the right thing
- If you experience conviction... GOOD NEWS, THE SPIRIT IS IN YOU!

Remember the Monsoon : This Prayer is a Means to Prevail and Hold to Victory!

- **Hebrews 2:18** Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

A Prayer to Prevail OVER EVIL EXTERNAL and INTERNAL

"The great point is that Jesus' act of giving us this prayer is an implicit promise that if we seek deliverance from evil, we shall find it" (J.I. Packer - Praying the Lord's Prayer, p.102)

Conclusion : We are not Alone in the Monsoons of Life!

Call the Worship Team : As the Worship Team Comes Up and Starts Would you Raise your Hand if you need a Cup/Bread

What Paul said :

"What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! (Romans 7:24-25)

We have VICTORY because of Jesus!

- He endured the greatest Test of all and Prevailed, our victory is in HIM!
- I pray this study would prepare your heart as we come to the Lord's Table.

The Prayers of Jesus

- Jesus began his Ministry with a Prayer in the Wilderness
- Jesus endured his Ministry in a Garden
- Jesus finished his Ministry on a Cross.

The Victory of Jesus

Jesus **PREPARED** in prayer - Jesus **PERSEVERED** in prayer- Jesus **PREVAILED** in prayer

Where are You at in this season of Life : Where are You in the Monsoon?

- Are you fearful of what might be ahead?
- Are you in over your head in the thick of it?
- Are you looking at the trial in the rearview mirror?

Let us Lift our Eyes to Jesus endured the cross, despised the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the Father!

- **Luke 22:19** And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."
- **Luke 22:20** In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."



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Side note - Why not the Doxology -

“For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever”

Simply : Not found in the earliest and most reliable Greek manuscripts of the Gospel of Matthew.

- Its believed to have originated as liturgical addition to early Christian worship.

Earliest Manuscripts : The Doxology is Absent

- Chester Beatty Papyrus (200 AD)
- Codex Sinaitics (325-350AD)
- Codex Vaticanus (330-360AD)

Why (ESV, NIV, NRSV) omit or include a footnote acknowledging in later manuscripts.

BUT IT IS GOOD and TRUE and commonly used and included in liturgical recitations of the Lord’s Prayer!