

Small Group notes – 14 October 2018

Welcome

What new and helpful thing have you learnt from this study on the Lord's Prayer?

Word – Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

What is temptation?

Chambers dictionary says - *To tempt is to try to entice, invite or persuade to do wrong.*

Temptation is simply anything, which entices us to sin against God. To be tempted in of itself is not a sin, it's what we do with the temptation, the thought, the desire, which can lead us to sin. Temptation is the oldest of all the inner conflicts in the human heart. There is not one person who hasn't struggled with temptation and there isn't one person except Jesus Christ who hasn't given in and suffered the consequences of yielding into temptation.

The question that arises in this prayer that Jesus gives us is; does God the Father tempt us? Does he entice us to sin against himself and his ways? James in his epistle makes it clear God the Father does not tempt anyone – James 1:13. God permits trials and temptations to come into our lives. Job (Job: 6-12), Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11).

What we need is to be so filled with the Holy Spirit that we are aware and can discern the difference between the trials of life; which are necessary for our growth in character and the temptations of life; which lead us to sin and away from God.

When we pray 'Lord lead us not into temptation' we are asking our Father God that he will not allow us to take the wrong path that will lead us to sin against him or be in a place of deception.

Watch out for the enemy without and within

Satan is clever he works in subtle ways... see how he tempted Adam & Eve - Genesis 3:1-7

He sowed doubt – did God really say that? Is God really good?

He sowed desire – the fruit looked good to eat – they would become like God!

Temptation begins with doubt, leads to desire and then to deception and then finally disobedience.

He targets our: **Minds – My reason**, self-preservation

Emotions – My self, pleasure, self indulgence

Wills – My ego, self-prominence, self-assertion

We are all vulnerable to temptation but we don't all struggle with the same issues. It would be nice, that if once we have overcome something, we then never struggle in that area again! Our enemy is persistent. Jesus instructs us to pray daily that God would deliver us from the evil one. Jesus is the one who ultimately delivers us from the evil one. Satan is evil personified, 1 Peter 5:8. We can learn to resist temptation and overcome the enemy by daily practicing the following.

Resist and recite – Matthew 26:41 & Matthew 4:1-11

Resist and run - 2 Timothy 2:22

Resist and remain – Hebrews 10:23-25

Resist and remember - 1 Corinthians 10:13 & Hebrews 2:14:18 & Hebrews 4:14-16

Questions

- What temptations did Jesus face and how did he overcome them?
- Can temptation be both bad and good for us?
- How can we overcome temptation?
- How does God deliver us from evil?
- The pressure and enticement in society to sin is constant. Since temptation is unavoidable, what can we do to prepare and protect yourself, children and family?
- Are you accountable to anyone in holding you to God's standard in living out the Christian Life?
- How do you intend to apply the teaching of Jesus in the Lord's Prayer to your own prayer life?

Response & prayers

Is there an area of your life where you are struggling? Spend time praying for one another. Be sensitive to the dynamic, maybe pray in two/threes or men and women separately.