Over the past few weeks, we have been learning to pray as Jesus did, dissecting the Lord’s prayer, the blueprint for our prayer life. We have confirmed the need to pray from a place of relationship, honoring His name. We have confirmed the need to pray for His agenda and not our own. \*The Lord’s Prayer is a prayer of response to His Holiness and recognition and reflection of our need. \*Provision, pardon, and protection are the principles of this prayer. We have learned to pray to God as supplier, sovereign Lord, and security. The premise of the prayer is to practice the presence of the Prince of Peace.

Last week, we discussed the necessity of forgiveness, our divine forgiveness and our forgiveness of others—our pardon! This week we look at our protection: “13 And don’t let us yield to temptation but rescue us from the evil one” (Matthew 6). Andrew Murray said, “Our daily bread, the pardon of our sins, and then the being kept from all sin and the evil one, in these three petitions all our personal need is comprehended.” Family, these petitions constitute a declaration of dependence. John Wesley noted, “the word translated *temptation* means trial of any kind. And so, the English word *temptation* was taken in an indifferent sense, although now it is understood as *solicitation to sin*.” In this light, the plea of Matthew 6:13 is a prayer submitting ourselves to His will. In its expression, we recognize our weakness and our need for our Heavenly Father to do the leading—in every test, trial, and temptation. Knowing God will respond to our plea, we can have peace; our Father stands with us. As children of God, we are targets of the enemy and in need of protection. As the psalmist sings, “4 Don’t let me drift toward evil or take part in acts of wickedness. Don’t let me share in the delicacies of those who do wrong” (Psalm 141).

Two times in the New Testament the devil is called the tempter. Thus, the Lord’s Prayer is a prayer of preparation and awareness, a plea to God’s sovereignty. We know that God will not tempt us: James 1:13 “13 And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, ‘God is tempting me.’ God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else.” And we are told repeatedly to pursue righteousness and to flee from sin. Our praying “lead us not into temptation” is, then, a plea for God to guide us through situations and circumstances that may lure us into ungodly actions. Knowing God and

knowing ourselves is the essence of this prayer and enables us to live godly lives. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 10:13, “The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.” What a beautiful promise!

As we mentioned earlier, the word *temptation* can refer to tests, trials, or hardships. The Greek word “peirasmos” means trial(s). All of us face them, but the important thing to know during these times is *who* is doing the leading. During such times, God can and does use challenges to increase the strength of our faith, producing godly character.\* Jesus tells us in John 16:33\*\* that we will encounter hardships, but He has overcome the world. Trials are sometimes for our discipline: “For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child” (Hebrews 12:6). Some believers question this truth: “Oh, Pastor Chris, God wouldn’t allow those things.” To them I say, ask Job, ask Jonah, ask Abraham, ask Isaac, ask Moses, ask Jesus! In Matthew 26:29, Jesus says “Mark my words—I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new with you in my Father’s Kingdom.” Jesus knew the suffering and separation that lay ahead for Him, but His perfect love didn’t mean that His life was always pretty.

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\*James 1:2-4

2 Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. 3 For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. 4 So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

\*\*John 16:33

I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart because I have overcome the world.”

The Lord’s Prayer is one of willingness and submission to the Father. In our surrender and submission, we are hallowing His name. John MacArthur shared this observation: “When you pray, pray this way! ‘All I ask for myself is life, forgiveness, and holiness. All the rest, I leave to You so that Your name will be hallowed and Your Kingdom will come.” Clearly, Family, this plea to God’s sovereignty is our “YES” to the Father’s will (Titus 2:11-14\*). It appeals to the grace of God and to the limitless supply of God in His Glory. Repeating this plea teaches us to say “NO” to self and the enticement of temptation; it teaches us to say “NO” when we want to quit, when things are hard. Our all-powerful Father leads us and protects us from the evil one. He loves us through all. And because Jesus was a “man of sorrows and acquainted with grief,” He knows what we endure. But remember, Christian, we are being sanctified. We are taught to pray and not to lose heart. Our Father gives strength to those who trust in His name, in and through every test, trial, and temptation. Mark 14:38 gives assurance: “Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak” (see also Luke 22:40\*\*). Thankfully, the resources of God are available to those who pray. He responds to us according to the relationship and His power (Matthew 6:13b—" rescue us from the evil one”), when we pray and live in reverent submission. His grace is sufficient. But, Family, don’t wait until you are tempted, tested, or experiencing a trial to pray. Pray continually. Pray privately. Seek His face. Look confidently for His provision, His pardon, and His protection.

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\*Titus 1:2-4

11 For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. 12 And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, 13 while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. 14 He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.

\*\*Luke 22:40

40 There he told them, “Pray that you will not give in to temptation.”

Passages in support of this sermon:

John 17:11-20

11 Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, you have given me your name;[a] now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are. 12 During my time here, I protected them by the power of the name you gave me.[b] I guarded them so that not one was lost, except the one headed for destruction, as the Scriptures foretold.

13 “Now I am coming to you. I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with my joy. 14 I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 15 I’m not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. 16 They do not belong to this world any more than I do. 17 Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. 18 Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. 19 And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth.

20 “I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message.

Matthew 6:9-15

9 Pray like this:

Our Father in heaven,

may your name be kept holy.

10 May your Kingdom come soon.

May your will be done on earth,

as it is in heaven.

11 Give us today the food we need,[a]

12 and forgive us our sins,

as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

13 And don’t let us yield to temptation,[b]

but rescue us from the evil one.[c]

14 “If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. 15 But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.