

We are coming to the last parts of the Lord's Prayer..... 'Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.' William Barclay has been helpful to me in this study. He goes into great detail about the various meanings of this petition. The word temptation in Greek can also mean 'trial' or 'test'. As we all know, life is filled with many trials. God indicates that sometimes these can be very beneficial for us. This word 'test' describes the process by which the genuineness of anything or anyone is tested, and thereby proved or disproved. God does not lead us into temptation that we may fall but that we may overcome and emerge spiritually stronger.

**"When he has tried me, I shall come forth as gold." - Job 23:10**

**"Consider it pure joy when you face various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness." - James 1:2**

**"The Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and all of your soul." - Deuteronomy 13:3**

We pray this prayer.....knowing that this life is filled with temptation, trials and tests and we cannot handle them by ourselves. We express our dependence on God's help and leading. (See our section on **Life in the Spirit** for more info about being led by the Spirit.)

As many as are LED by the Spirit of God, they are the SONS (huios = mature sons of God). - Romans 8:14 God desires that his children become fully developed and mature into the image of Jesus Christ in our character. The apostle Peter experienced that transformation in his life. It is reflected in his writing.

**".....though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come that so that your faith - of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire - may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed." 1 Peter 1:6-7**

In the midst of trials.....the world can seem to close in on us. Our tests should be seen in view of the larger picture of this life and the next. When Jesus is revealed from heaven, all else will pale in comparison. It was God's perfect world.....He created it. The devil entered the serpent and poisoned this earth with sin and death. It was now Satan's world in one sense, for he corrupted it. Ever since the fall of mankind there has been this cry to God through many generations...

### **DELIVER US FROM EVIL**

Cain murdered his brother Abel and found himself to be a restless wanderer without God's presence to protect him. He asked God to spare him from being killed by others. God did so by placing a mark on him as a warning sign to anyone who would try to kill him.

The Israelites were in bondage to the Egyptians for 400 years. God heard their crying and was concerned about their suffering. He promised to deliver them and bring them into a good and spacious land which flowed with milk and honey. - Exodus 3:7-8. He raised up Moses as a deliverer. An unlikely fellow who had been a murderer, but God saw that he had a heart for his people.

In the book of Judges we see many cycles when idolatry, immorality and wickedness abound but God would raise up those who would bring deliverance from oppressive enemies. Samson was endued with mighty strength from God to attack the enemies of Israel, but he had 'eye'

trouble. He caroused with many women and it finally caught up with him. He lost his eyesight and was greatly humbled, but at the end of his life, God once again empowered him to defeat more Philistines in his death than he did during the rest of his life.

Israel faced many enemies in their history including some giants such as Goliath. He spread fear and dismay to God's people, but David would not listen to his accusations and lies. He trusted God and against all odds, he killed Goliath and brought deliverance to his people.

From the line of David came another deliverer. He would not just bring deliverance to Israel but to the whole world. His name was "Yahweh delivers". There are songs about him. One old hymn repeats the line.... Jesus saves.....Jesus saves. Jesus Christ is the great liberator of all time. It is Jesus' world..... He conquered it.

God uses those whom the world may reject to bring deliverance to a people. America was in turmoil in the mid 1800's. God chose a lanky humble lawyer from Illinois to be the man for the hour. Lincoln was not well accepted by the clergy of the day as he did not even go to church, but God saw a man whose ambition was not for himself but for the American people. Honest Abe is now considered perhaps the greatest of Presidents along with George Washington.

i

Every generation has nations in distress and corrupt oppressive leaders. God often raises up unlikely persons to bring deliverance when it is needed, as we have seen above. The greatest liberator of all time is Jesus Christ. He brought deliverance nearly 2000 years ago. He is still available to help nations and persons today if only they look to him and follow his ways. It will happen in its fullness when He returns to earth to set up His kingdom.

And the government will be on His shoulders / Isaiah 9:6

He will teach us His ways so that we will walk in His paths / Isaiah 2:3

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