

Colossians 3:16

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
teaching and admonishing one another
in all wisdom,
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*



This fifth of five devotionals focuses on each of the five petitions of the Lord's Prayer. The Lord's Prayer is not only intended to be a stand-alone prayer, but also a model to guide us in framing our own prayers. Each petition is both very concise and very comprehensive. The Scriptures below for each petition are meant to help us open up our prayers, to reach deeper in and higher up.

Scripture for "Lead us not into temptation."

*Psalm 19:13 Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me!
Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.*

Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

I Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

I Timothy 6:9 Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

James 1:12-15 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

Scripture for "But deliver us from evil."

Psalm 34:4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

*Psalm 121:7-8 The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.*

Ephesians 6:10-12 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

I Timothy 4:18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom.

*I John 2:14 I write to you, young men, because you are strong,
and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.*

I John 5:18 We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

Jude 1:24-25 Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Heidelberg Catechism

What does the request “lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil” mean?

Our Father in heaven, by ourselves we are too weak to hold our own even for a moment. And our sworn enemies—the devil, the world, and our own flesh—never stop attacking us. And so, Lord, uphold us and make us strong with the strength of your Holy Spirit, so that we may not go down to defeat in this spiritual struggle, but may firmly resist our enemies until we finally win the complete victory. Amen. (Q/A 127)

Song

Psalm 59:16 But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.

[You can Google the hymn to hear it if you would like to sing along.]

Lead Me, Guide Me

I am weak and I need thy strength and power
To help me over my weakest hour
Lead me through the darkness thy face to see
Lead me oh lord lead me

Refrain: Lead me, guide me along the way,
For if you lead me I cannot stray.
Lord let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, oh Lord lead me.

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness.
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in Thee:
Lead me, oh Lord lead me. *Refrain*

I am lost if you take your hand from me,
I am blind without Thy light to see.
Lord just always to me thy servant be,
Lead me, oh Lord lead me. *Refrain*

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Prayer

II Chronicles 7:14 If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Holy Father, our hearts are bent to turn away from you, so that when our sins are forgiven, we are ready to turn back to folly, we pray that you will not only forgive us our debts but take care of us, that we may not offend anymore. Lord, lead us not into temptation. We know that no one can say when he is tempted that he is being tempted by God, for God himself tempts no one; but we know that God is able to make all grace abound to us, and to keep us from stumbling and present us blameless. We therefore pray that you will never give us over to our own stubborn hearts, to follow our own counsels, but restrain Satan, that roaring lion who goes about seeking someone to devour; and grant that we may not be ignorant of his designs. O let not Satan have us, to sift us like wheat; or however, let our faith not fail.

Let not the messengers of Satan be permitted to harass us; but if they do, let your grace be sufficient for us, that where we are weak, there we may be strong, and may be more than conquerors through him who loved us. And since we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against rulers and authorities and the cosmic powers over this present darkness, let us be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

Lord, grant that we may never enter into temptation, but having prayed, may we set a guard; and let your wise and good providence so order all our affairs and all events that concern us, that no temptation may overtake us that is not common to man, and that we may never be tempted beyond our ability to discern, resist, and overcome through the grace of God. Lead us in paths of righteousness for your name's sake.

And deliver us, we plead with you, from the evil one; protect us, that the evil one does not touch us, that he does not sow his weeds in the field of our hearts, that we will not be ensnared by his schemes, or wounded by his flaming darts; let the word of God abide in us, that we may be strong and may overcome the evil one.

Deliver us from every evil thing, we pray, that we may do no wrong, especially the sin which clings so closely. Conceal pride from us; put false ways far from us: incline our hearts to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain; and keep us from speaking rashly with our lips: But especially keep back your servants from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over us!

O Savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand, wondrously show us your steadfast love, and keep us as the apple of your eye; hide us in the shadow of your wings. Guard what has been entrusted to you. You who have delivered, please deliver; and, we hope and pray, that you will deliver us again. And bring us safe at last to your holy mountain, where there is nothing to hurt or destroy.

(from Matthew Henry's Method for Prayer)