



The Sixth Petition— God Makes Us Watchful

TEMPTATIONS ALL AROUND US

"Everyone else is cheating on this test. Why should I study?"

"Mom will be really mad if I tell her the truth. We'll both be stress-free if I change the story a little."

"Oh, great! Now I broke it. I could just throw it away and pretend to 'not know' where it went."

"She won't miss just one. She'll still have lots for herself."

"What they don't know, won't hurt them—or me!"

"I'll find a way to get even. He really deserves to get what's coming to him."

"If I don't go along with this, I'll never fit in with this group."

WE TURN TO GOD'S WORD

Temptations to sin abound. Everywhere we turn, we have opportunity and excuses to give in. Resisting sin is hard. And in our lives, sin often wins.

1. Read about sin's victory in Genesis 3:1-6.

a. Who was tempted?

b. What was the temptation?

c. Was the temptation to sin resisted successfully?

2. Read about sin's defeat in Matthew 4:1-11.

a. Who was tempted?

b. What was the temptation?

c. Was the temptation to sin resisted successfully?

Adam faced Satan and gave in to temptation. Jesus, the second Adam, faced Satan and resisted and won. Adam brought sin and death

to all. Christ, the second Adam, through His obedience and death, brought righteousness and life to all. Jesus showed that, with His help, we too can overcome temptation.

TEMPTED BY EVIL

Read the Sixth Petition and its meaning. As in the Third Petition, three great enemies who seek to prevent God's will from taking place are identified. These evil forces—the devil, the world, and our sinful nature—try to lure us away from God, tempting us to ignore or abandon God's will and promises. We ask in this petition that God would watch over us and keep us so that we are ready and able at all times to say NO when these enemies confront us.

In your own words, on the next page, tell what Scripture suggests for our confrontations with temptations.

a. James 4:7

b. Romans 12:2

c. Romans 13:14

TESTED BY GOD

Luther states strongly and clearly that God does not tempt us. He bases his convictions on Bible passages such as James 1:13. But God indeed *tests* us as He tested His people throughout biblical history. God uses the testing of our faith to bring us closer to Him. Look at the following passages and write after each how God tested the person mentioned in the text.

1. Genesis 22:1-19

2. John 6:1-14

3. Matthew 15:21-2

God uses the struggles and perplexities of this life to make us stronger. (See James 1:2-3; Romans 5:1-5; 1 Peter 1:6-7.) What are some of the ways God "tests" our faith today?

GOD GUARDS AND KEEPS US

In the Sixth Petition we ask God: *Lead us not into temptation.* He answers our prayer when He keeps temptation away from us completely, or when He gives us strength to resist a temptation. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. In your own words write the comforting assurance God gives us there.

The Sixth Petition

And lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean?

God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

Think again of the ways God may test our faith today. What are the possible "ways out" or assurances He might also provide?

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Do you remember the armor and weapon described in Ephesians 6:11-18? Fill in the blanks here as a review.

You stand with the belt of _____ buckled around your waist. You wear the breastplate of _____. Your feet are fitted with readiness from the _____. You are protected from the devil's weapons (temptations) by the shield of _____, as you wear the helmet of _____, and carry the sword of the Spirit which is _____.

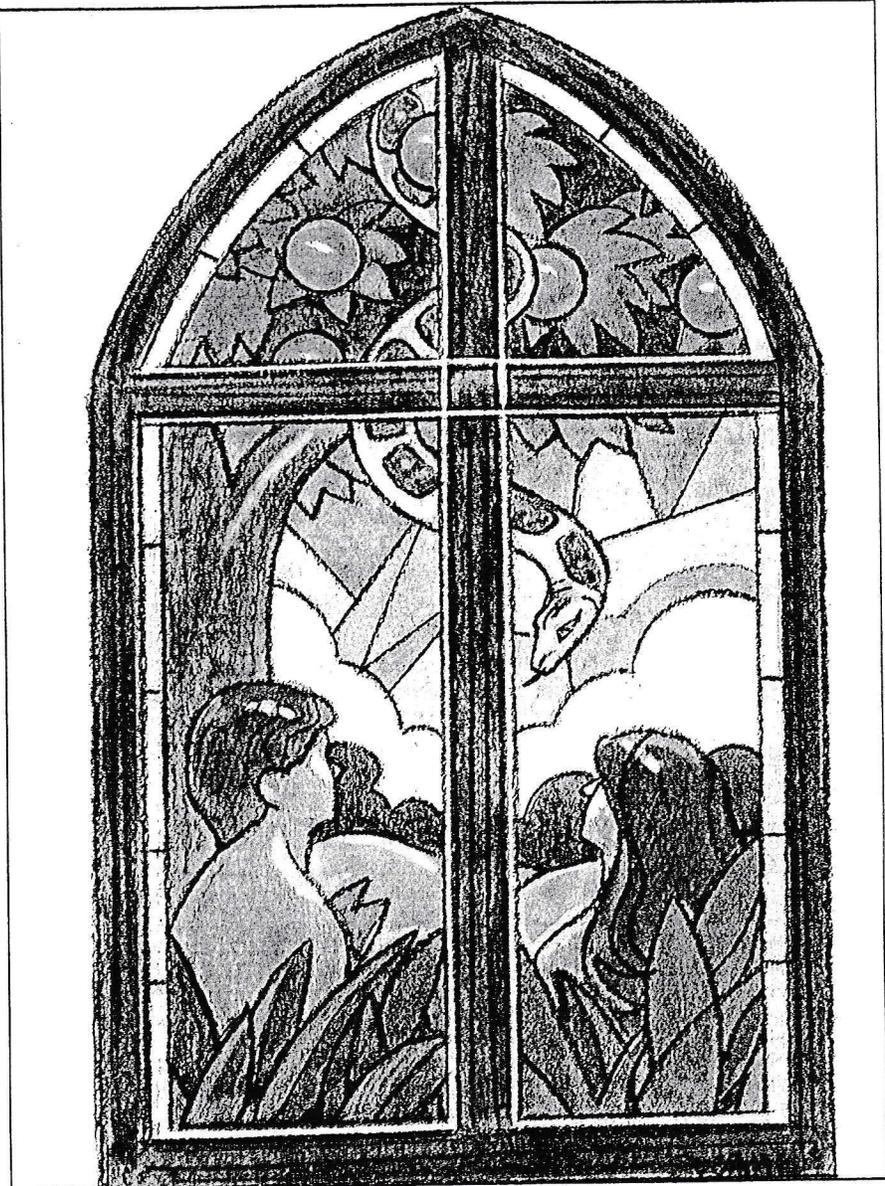
TO REVIEW AND REMEMBER

Mark 14:38: Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.

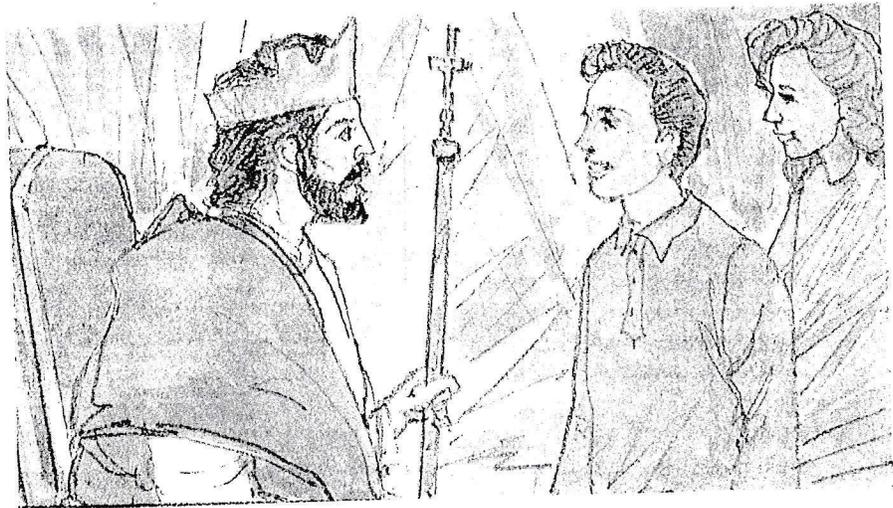
1 Peter 5:8-9a: Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith.

Ephesians 6:11: Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

The Sixth Petition and its explanation.



1. What protection and blessing did He pray for His disciples? See verses 11, 13, 15.



2. What purpose do His disciples have in the world?

3. In addition to the disciples present in the room at that time, for whom was Jesus praying?

4. What is Jesus' prayer for the ultimate care and protection of His people?

5. In your own words, what assurance did Jesus give His people? See John 16:33.

2. God does not always deliver us from evil so directly. Sometimes He uses difficulties and disasters and turns them to good for us and others. He gives us faith and strength to bear the evils, even though they are caused by Satan and sin.

a. The apostle Paul was a person who certainly had plenty of problems. Read 2 Corinthians 11:24-28; 12:7-10 and briefly tell of Paul's troubles.

GOD DELIVERS US FROM EVIL IN LIFE

1. Read Psalm 91. Sometimes God keeps evil from coming to us, and sometimes God removes the evils that have touched our lives. List examples from the Bible where God delivered someone. Include incidents from your own life where God helped you.

b. What was God's reply to Paul's plea for help? (12:9)

c. God's great power was working even during Paul's weakest moments. What great things did God accomplish through the ministry of Paul?

2. Prepare your own list of evils that will end when we die.

explain three reasons why we may approach God with confidence.

a. First, God can and will take care of us because He is

King of Kings,
our Creator, our
heavenly Father.

b. Second, we are confident
God will answer our prayers
because He has all

the power to
grant our petitions.

c. Third, as God answers the
prayers of His people, He deserves
all the credit and

glory.

None of us knows exactly what heaven will be like, but you have probably described your idea of a perfect place. And you can be sure that heaven will be a place of perfection and joy as we live eternally with God!

IN THE MEANTIME

With God's assurance of a place in heaven, some Christians may long to leave this world or to go into seclusion. God, though, does not see life as something to escape or to avoid. He says we have a job to do. **John 9:4** and **Philippians 1:19-27** suggest the urgency of our task. Read these verses and describe our purpose on earth.

GOD DELIVERS US FROM EVIL AT DEATH

The ultimate evil is death. Death is the result of our sin; and since we have sinned, we must die. But God uses even death to achieve His purposes. Death brings an end to all our temptations, sins, and troubles. Through death we enter the world of perfection that John described in the book of Revelation.

1. Read John's vision of heaven in **Revelation 21:1-4** and **22:1-5**. Then write what you imagine or what you expect heaven to be like.

TO REVIEW AND REMEMBER

2 Timothy 4:18: The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Psalm 50:15: Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor Me.

The Seventh Petition and its explanation.

The Conclusion to the Lord's Prayer.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

As the Lord's Prayer comes to an end, we wish to praise God and show our confidence that He will indeed answer our prayer.

1 Timothy 1:17 List and