

8 Lead Us Not Into Temptation

Matthew 6:13 And lead us not into temptation...

Question #1: How could a holy and perfect God lead us into temptation?

- Temptation is anything that exerts a force or influence that seduces the mind and heart away from <u>OBEDIENCE</u> to God and toward <u>SIN</u>
- God does not <u>TEMPT</u> man, it is <u>THE DEVIL</u> who tempts.
 But God will lead man into temptation.
 - <u>Matthew 4:1 (NIV)</u> "Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil"

Question #2: Why would a good God lead us into temptation?

- o To help us grow strong in **WISDOM** and **DISCERNMENT**
- o To **HUMBLE** us and make us reliant on him
- o To reveal the **GENUINENESS** of our faith

Question #3: What should you do about it?

- Know <u>YOURSELF</u>
 - Know your vulnerability areas and have a healthy distrust of your flesh
- Know <u>YOUR ENEMY</u>
 - <u>1 Peter 5:8 (ESV)</u> "Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour..."

o Know **YOUR WEAPONS**

Weapon #1: Watchfulness

Weapon #2: Prayer

Matthew 26:41 (NIV) "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Weapon #3: The Word
 Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the word of God is alive and active.
 Sharper than any double-edged sword..."

Jesus is our perfect example of how to battle temptation

 Hebrews 4:15 (NIV) For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet he did not sin.