



# Links Players

## Teach Us To Pray - Lesson 6: Deliver Us From Evil

*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from [the evil one]. (Matthew 6: 13, ESV)*

Have you ever been tempted to “go for it” when you shouldn’t have? You have two hundred and thirty yards to carry the lake from a questionable lie, yet you decide to give it a try. Kerplunk!

Obviously, this example doesn’t apply to everyone. For some, that shot is within their wheelhouse. However, we are all prone to try shots that we are incapable of pulling off. Much like sinful enticements, in the moment, we have an adrenaline rush; but, in the end, disaster waits.

Temptations are an unavoidable part of the fallen world. Knowing what is right and wrong is crucial; resisting evil is another matter entirely.

Jesus instructs us to ask, “Lead us not into temptation.” This prayer can be perplexing. Elsewhere, we are told, “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God...’” (James 1: 13). Why would we ask him not to do something he is incapable of doing—tempt us with evil?

One way to untie the knot is to understand the word can be translated as “testing” rather than temptation. That solves some of the riddle. Why?

For one, while God does not tempt his children, he most certainly does “test” his children. He tests us so we can discover what is in our hearts (cf. Exodus 16:4). He, obviously, already knows. But then, if that is the case, why would he instruct us to ask the Father not to test us?

When we turn to Matthew’s version of The Lord’s Prayer, we notice that he adds, “...but deliver us from the evil one.” As is often the case, this second part is intended to shed light on the first part.

Understood this way, we are petitioning the Father to do for us that which we cannot do in our own strength—lead us in Christ’s triumph over evil.

In our own strength, we are no match for the devil. Yet, Scripture teaches us, “Greater is he that is in us than he that is in the world.” (1 John 4:4). In Christ, we are clothed with impenetrable armor provided we remember to put it on. We have all the weapons we need to fight and win the battle over temptations and sin.” (Ephesians 6: 10-20).

Whenever you find yourself overpowered with nagging temptations, remember the words of the Psalmist, “I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.” (Psalm 18: 2-3, ESV)

**Prayer – Lord, we call on you! Come and rescue us from temptations and sin.**

**READING - 1 Corinthians 10:13; 1 Timothy 6:9-10; James 1:13-15.**

**OPENING QUESTIONS:** What shot have you attempted that in hindsight should have been obvious to avoid? What shot are you consistently tempted to try that you simply don’t have?

**1. In 1 Corinthians 10:13,** Paul instructs us about the nature of temptation, the character of God, and God’s provision for success. What are these? Discuss the importance of each.

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**2. In 1 Timothy,** we are taught some important truths about desiring money. **A)** Is money itself evil? **B)** If not, then what is evil? **C)** If one gives themselves over to this evil, what are the outcomes? Discuss the verse where Jesus says, “you cannot serve God and money.”

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**3. In James 1:13-15,** we discover the origin of evil. Where does evil originate? What happens when we yield to them? What happens after yielding? Is temptation the same as sin?

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