

# BOLD to SAY

LEARNING & LIVING  
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Week 5

**"Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil"**

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

**Scripture Focus:** *Matthew 6:13; Luke 11:4*

## Key Themes:

- To be Christian is to follow Jesus—and he always leads us into places we wouldn't choose on our own.
- Temptation is real, but its danger often comes because it looks so good, so holy.
- Evil is not just personal failings, but real forces at work in the world—stronger than our strength, more clever than our intelligence.
- Deliverance is not about willpower but God's power, given to us through Christ.
- Jesus overcomes temptation by offering a more beautiful song.

## Opening Prayer and Review

### Focus 1: Lead Us

The heart of this petition is about being led. Being Christian is not just believing certain things or practicing certain rituals—it is following Christ. And Christ is always on the move, calling us to daily conversion. Like Abram leaving his homeland or the disciples leaving their nets, following Jesus will take us to unexpected and sometimes costly places. Clarence Jordan once reminded his brother that the difference between an "admirer" and a disciple is whether you follow Jesus all the way to the cross.

**Reflection Question 1:** Why did Jesus ask us to follow him before he asked us to believe? Where do you think Jesus is asking you to follow him?

### Focus 2: Temptation

When we ask God not to lead us into temptation, we aren't saying God causes temptation—James reminds us God tempts no one. We are asking God to lead us *out of it*. Temptation is rarely obvious. It often looks good, even holy. Augustine said every sin is love misdirected—good things twisted in the wrong direction.

**Reflection Question 2:** Have you experienced too much or too little focus on the devil? If we gave the "devil his due," what would his "due" be?

### Focus 3: Done with the Devil

Modern people are uncomfortable talking about the devil, but Scripture and the church's wisdom take evil seriously. Evil is more than the sum of our bad choices. Paul calls them "principalities and powers"—forces greater than us. Lewis warns the devil comes "as an angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:14). True temptation is terrifying because it can look like good.

**Reflection Question 3:** What do you think it means that the devil comes "as an angel of light"?

## Focus 4: When We Think We Are Doing Good

Some of history's greatest evils—slavery, genocide, terrorism—were carried out by people convinced they were serving God. That is the danger of temptation: it blinds us by cloaking itself in righteousness. This is why Jesus teaches us to pray for deliverance, because we cannot see it or resist it on our own.

**Reflection Question 4:** Why is it that we are often our most evil when we believe we are doing good?

## Focus 5: Deliver Us

Karl Barth said evil is “stronger than our strength, more clever than our intelligence, more pious than our piety.” Our only hope is deliverance. In baptism, we vow to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in *whatever form* they present themselves—because evil rarely looks the way we expect. Deliverance is grace: Jesus has already faced the evil one and won.

**Reflection Question 5:** How do Christians resist evil and temptation? Why is willpower not enough?

## Closing Thought – A More Beautiful Song

Temptation is seductive like the sirens' song in Homer's *Odyssey*. Odysseus survived by tying himself down. But Orpheus played a more beautiful song. That's what Jesus does: he sings a more beautiful truth that drowns out evil's lies. In Christ, God has already delivered us from the jaws of evil. Our prayer is not for more willpower—it's for Jesus to keep singing his song of grace through us.

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**Notes:**

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