

**SCRIPTURE READING:** 2 Cor. 12

**EXTRA READING:** Nicene Creed and Canons, V, 3

**SINGING:** 392:1, 4, 6 – 202:1-3 – 356:1-3 – 429:1, 4

Intro. Life in a fallen world is living in the fiercest battle zone!

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CHRIST'S COMMAND TO PRAY 6TH PETITION</b> <b>I. What is implied? II. What it confesses? III What is asks?</b></p>
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**I. WHAT DOES 6<sup>TH</sup> PETITION IMPLY?**

- A. It implies that Christ's disciples will face *ongoing temptations*
1. Word 'temptations' aren't *temptations to sin* but *trials of life* which bring their own temptations (James 1:2; 12-15)
    - a. nowhere did Christ's promise a life without trials (John 16:33)
  
    - b. Bible and experience teach that best saints will experience the rougher side of Christian life
- B. Jesus knows this is reality: therefore instructs us pray 6<sup>th</sup> petition
1. Jesus purposefully allows many trials and afflictions in life of His own
  
  2. False 'health/wealth Gospel' fails to honor the NT teaching on sanctification and Christian warfare
    - a. it denies reality of indwelling sin even in saved
  
    - b. leans to perfectionism in life
  
    - c. misrepresents the nature of God's grace in leading His people
  
  3. God's ultimate reason to for allowing the trials and needs

**II. WHAT IS CONFESSES?**

- A. It confesses an inability in ourselves to handle anything without God
1. Doctrine of human inability is not a popular to our pride
- B. Are we living in realization that we are *always* weak (John 15:5)
1. Moment we think *we are strong*, we display our greatest weakness
  
  2. There is no situation or crisis *we are strong enough to handle*

### III WHAT THE 6<sup>TH</sup> PETITION ASKS?

- A. It doesn't ask God to shield us or remove from us all temptations
1. Though it is not wrong to ask this, His will often is not to grant it
- B. But Jesus teaches us to ask for *daily – momentary strength in this battle*
1. Devil knows no mercy: he is viler than we imagine
    - a. when he sees you needy, he doesn't know mercy
    - b. his 'theological arrows are vicious & stir our depraved heart!
  2. Don't over-estimate world of people around (Jer. 17:5-6)
- C. So in the 6<sup>th</sup> we are to ask: *deliver me from evil (or Evil One)*
1. How will believers be delivered?
    - a. by the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit exercising His office
      - consider Jer. 17:7-8; Phil. 4:11-13; 2 Cor. 12:9-10
    - b. by the final glorification: 1 Thess. 3:13; 1 Thess. 5:23
  2. How do we seek this power of Spirit of God?
    - a. Confession and Prayer for the grace of God
      - God's grace is *God's loving action toward and within sinners*
      - God has committed Himself towards His people in this grace
    - b. Reading and trusting in Scripture's promise
      - Luther: *I have had great troubles of mind: but so soon as I laid hold on any place of Scripture and stayed myself upon it as upon my chief anchor, straightway my temptations vanished away*
- A Final Question: *How will you face the triple-headed enemy?*

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### QUOTES ON SPIRITUAL WARFARE

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For the Christian, this world is an arena, not an arm chair.

The Christian's journey is uphill with a dead body upon our backs and the devil doing what he can to pull us down. (P. Henry)

You will not get to heaven in Christ's company without a conflict and a cross. (Samuel Rutherford)

