

Title: WSC Question 106: What Do We Pray for in the Sixth Petition?

- I. The doctrine stated:
 - A. WSC Answer 106: In the Sixth Petition (Which is, and Lead Us Not into Temptation, But Deliver Us from Evil) we pray, That God would either keep us from being tempted to sin, or support and deliver us when we are tempted.
 - B. WLC Answer 195: In the sixth petition, (which is, And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,) acknowledging, that the most wise, righteous, and gracious God, for divers holy and just ends, may so order things, that we may be assaulted, foiled, and for a time led captive by temptations; that Satan, the world, and the flesh, are ready powerfully to draw us aside, and ensnare us; and that we, even after the pardon of our sins, by reason of our corruption, weakness, and want of watchfulness, are not only subject to be tempted, and forward to expose ourselves unto temptations, but also of ourselves unable and unwilling to resist them, to recover out of them, and to improve them; and worthy to be left under the power of them: we pray, that God would so over-rule the world and all in it, subdue the flesh, and restrain Satan, order all things, bestow and bless all means of grace, and quicken us to watchfulness in the use of them, that we and all his people may by his providence be kept from being tempted to sin; or, if tempted, that by his Spirit we may be powerfully supported and enabled to stand in the hour of temptation; or when fallen, raised again and recovered out of it, and have a sanctified use and improvement thereof: that our sanctification and salvation may be perfected, Satan trodden under our feet, and we fully freed from sin, temptation, and all evil, for ever.
- II. The doctrine proved and explained.
 - A. The Sixth Petition is, “and Lead Us Not into Temptation, But Deliver Us from Evil.”
 1. MT 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
 2. LK 11:4b And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
 3. Temptation = trial or enticement to do evil.
 4. Evil = evil thing or evil one.
 5. “Lead us” cannot refer to God enticing us to sin because scripture clearly states that He cannot do this. JA 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: [14] But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. [15] Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.
 6. “Lead us not” could refer to providential leading or to leaving one in temptation.
 - B. In the Sixth Petition we pray that God would keep us from being tempted to sin.
 1. We pray this because we recognize our own weakness.
 2. We pray this because we desire holiness.
 - C. In the Sixth Petition we pray that God would support and deliver us when we are tempted.

1. Only the Lord can enable us to withstand temptation.
2. Only the Lord can deliver us from the snares of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

III. The doctrine applied.

- A. Realize your own weakness and inability to resist temptation on your own. (Joh 17:15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.)
- B. Be watchful for the snares of evil. (Eph 5:15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, [16] redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 1Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. [9] Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.)
- C. Run from, not to, temptation; always looking for the way of escape promised by God (1CO 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.
- D. Rest in the Lord's ability to protect His children. ((2Th 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard *you* from the evil one. 2Ti 4:18 And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve *me* for His heavenly kingdom. To Him *be* glory forever and ever. Amen!)

Conclusion: Watson: "Therefore, be not secure, but stand upon your watch-tower; lie in your armor; always expect a fight. As he that has a short respite from an ague says, I look every day when my fit shall come, so say, I look every day when the tempter shall come; I will put myself into a warlike posture. When Satan is beaten out of the field, he is not beaten out of the heart; he will come again. He had little hope to prevail against Christ. Christ gave him three deadly wounds, and made him retreat; yet he departed 'only for a season.' If the devil cannot conquer us, he knows he can molest us; if he cannot destroy us, he will surely disturb us; therefore we must, with the pilot, have our compass ready, and be able to turn our needle to any point where temptation shall blow. If the tempter come not so soon as we expect, by putting ourselves in a defensive posture, we shall have the advantage of being always prepared. To conclude all: let us often make this prayer, 'Lead us not into temptation.' If Satan woo us by a temptation, let us not give consent. In case a Christian has through weakness and not out of a design, yielded to temptation, let him not 'cast away his anchor;' but take heed of despair, which is worse than the fall itself. Christian, steep thy soul in the brinish waters of repentance, and God will be appeased. Repentance gives the soul a vomit. Christ loved Peter after his denial of him, and sent the first news of his resurrection to him - 'Go tell the disciples and Peter.' It is an error to think that one act of sin can destroy the habit of grace. It is a wrong to God's mercy and to a Christian's comfort, to make the despairing conclusion, that after one has fallen by temptation, his estate is irrecoverable. Therefore, Christian, if thou hast fallen with Peter, repent with Peter, and God will be ready to seal thy pardon."