

Deliver Us from Evil #2

*Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. (Matthew 6:13, NIV)*

Why do we pray, *lead us not into temptation*? Does the question imply that God might lead us into sin unless we ask Him not to?

The basic petition is, *deliver us from the evil one*. For emphasis it is stated in a negative way, *lead us not into temptation*, then in a positive way, *but deliver us from the evil one*. God will not lead us into evil, any more than He will let us starve unless we pray for daily bread.

The purpose of the Lord's Prayer is not to tell God something He needs to hear. The purpose is to align our hearts and desires with Him, to look to Him in our needs, to open ourselves to His working in our lives. We seek His glory, His control, His will. We turn to Him for our daily provisions. We seek His forgiveness and His deliverance from evil.

In summary, stay aware of the danger of sin. Stay aware of your weakness. When life presses in, watch and pray. When you get spiritually drowsy, watch and pray. Day by day, watch and pray.

And remember: the Lord's Prayer is *us*, not just *me*. Our loved ones also need God's guidance and protection in a world of evil. Lift them up to your Father. Ask Him to build a hedge around them. Ask Him to keep them and lead them to Himself.

*Like Peter,
I overestimate
the strength of my own will.
Father, I turn to You and
watch and
pray.*

Hymn: [Do You Talk to the Lord?](#)