

Title: "Lead us not..."

February 21, 2021

Text: Matthew 6:13

Walk-In: This portion of the Lord's Prayer presents us with a dilemma of sorts. It seems a little odd of God to even think about leading us into temptation. That is, unless He is cruel or sadistic. Isn't Jesus urging us to pray that His Father would not lead us into something that He doesn't do? James 1:13 tells us that "God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone." What do we make of all this? Let's look closer at a couple important issues.

Issue No. 1: The M of a word. - "Temptation".

There are two basic ways of understanding this word:

P when we see it as a trial or test;

N when we see it as a solicitation to do evil.

The same basic word is used in scripture for both. Look at James 1:2,12,13.

Issue No. 2: The C teaching of scripture.

- God never leads you to a place where you are F to do evil. So the answer to the question in this sense is N. *James 1:13*
- The kinds of things that are thrown at you.
1 John 2:14-17

- The purpose these experiences serve.
They can show us what is in our H.
They can help us C important issues in our lives.
They can F our will.
They can E others by example.

Issue No. 3: What God sends as a T in our life is often turned into a T by Satan.

A case in point: Matthew 4 and the temptation of Jesus.

Y case in point:

Wrap-up: What do we make of all this? Two things for me:

1. Testings and trials are N for the Christian life.
2. When we cave in to and respond wrongly to the trial, it becomes T. Perhaps this is why there is so little difference in the basic meaning of the word. But please remember who we can rely on. Hebrews 4:15 assures us of One who is *able to enable us* to live victoriously. Even when we fail, at least we can fail F.