

Lead Us Not Into Temptation

Lead us not into temptation.

MATTHEW 6:13

Written by Bill Perkins

Jesus teaches us to pray these words
because He knows temptation begins
long before we see it.

It begins in the places we walk,
in the paths we choose,
in the moments we enter
without knowing what waits there.

The word He uses for “temptation”
speaks of testing, pressure,
and the moment when testing becomes a snare.

Jesus is not saying the Father tempts us.
He is saying the Father protects us.

He is teaching us to pray,
“Father, do not let me walk into a place
where my weakness would collapse.
Do not let me enter a moment
that would overwhelm my strength.
Do not let me step into a situation
that would pull my heart away from You.”

This is the same prayer He prayed for His disciples
on the night He was betrayed:

“Watch and pray
so that you do not enter into temptation.”
Matthew 26:41

Jesus knows how temptation works.
He faced it in the wilderness.
He resisted it in the garden.
He overcame it in every moment of His life.

And now He teaches us
to ask the Father for the same protection—
not after temptation begins,
but before it does.

“Lead us not into temptation”
is the prayer of a child
who trusts the Father’s eyes
more than his own.

It is the prayer of someone
who knows the Father sees danger
long before we do.

It is the prayer that keeps the heart safe
and the soul close.

“Lead us not into temptation.”

Where do I need the Father’s guidance
before temptation begins?

I want to trust the Father’s eyes
more than my own.

I want Him to guide my steps
before I enter places
where my weakness would fail.

You may not know this about Jesus:
He taught us to pray for guidance before the temptation comes.

Father, lead me away from the places
where temptation grows.

Guide my steps.

Protect my heart.

Keep me from moments
that would overwhelm my strength.

Let Your wisdom direct my path
and Your presence guard my life.

I ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.