



WEEK 6: PRAYER AS A WEAPON

TEXT: MATTHEW 6:9-13

Introduction:

Last week, we looked at our own need for God's forgiveness, as well as the need to forgive others for sins they have committed against us. This week, we focus on the part of the Lord's Prayer that deals with future sins.

1 WE MAY END UP PRAYING FEWER PRAYERS OF CONFESSION IF WE PRAY A FEW MORE PRAYERS OF PREVENTION

“...And lead us not into **temptation** but **deliver us from evil**.” Matthew 6:13

In this part of the prayer, a few things are implied about sin and our relationship to it:

- Sin will remain with us until we meet Jesus face to face.
 - Our relationship with, and to, sin should change as we grow in Christian maturity.
 - We, as Christians, should pray in order to avoid and resist sin in our lives.
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- ❖ Q: Which do you find yourself mostly praying, prayers of confession or prevention? Why do you think this is the case?
 - ❖ Q: Why does our relationship with, and to, sin change as we grow in Christian maturity?
 - ❖ Q: If you are still battling with the same core sins as you were two years ago, what does that suggest?
 - ❖ Q: What difference do you think it would make to your walk with God, if you prayed about your sin struggles and daily asked him to help you to resist or avoid those sins?

Personal Reflection Question: Do you genuinely desire to walk in holiness before the Lord? (This question is important. We need to decide whether we genuinely want to leave our sin behind us, to walk on without it, and not to keep any doors open to the enjoyment of its momentary pleasures.) If you are serious about your desire to walk in holiness before the Lord, then in what ways do you think that praying prayers of prevention could help?

2 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT TEMPTATION

“...And lead us not into **temptation**, but **deliver us from evil**.” Matthew 6:13

- **God doesn't tempt us** (James 1:13). The point Jesus is making is that we should ask God to lead us in the right direction, which is away from temptation and evil, because we are so easily lured in to its false pleasures.
 - **Temptation is internal and external** (James 1:14-15). It comes from our own desires, as well as from Satan himself.
 - **Temptation can be very subtle.**
 - **Temptation is bearable** (1 Corinthians 10:13). Surrendering to sin is not inevitable. We need to stand up and believe what the Scriptures say, and get involved in the fight against sin through prayer.
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- ❖ Q: Where does temptation come from?
 - ❖ Q: Why is it so hard to admit that much of our sin comes from the evil desires within our own hearts?
 - ❖ Q: In what ways have you experienced the subtlety of temptation? How is 1 Timothy 6:9-10 a sobering warning for us regarding temptation in our context?
 - ❖ Q: Have you got a defeatist or victorious mindset towards overcoming sin? Explain.



II. HOW WE SHOULD PRAY.

- As a discipline and a delight;
- Balancing Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication (A.C.T.S);
- In response to Scripture – we need to hear from God as much as we speak to God. Prayer is not a monologue but a conversation between you and God;
- Full of faith and expectation (James 1:5-8 ESV);
- In Jesus's name – in a posture of total dependence on Christ for his gracious forgiveness;
- Ready to act (Psalm 66:17-19) - we need to have open and malleable hearts if we want God to hear our prayers.
- ❖ Q: Why is it important to realise that prayer is not just about us talking to God, but that God also speaks to us?
- ❖ Q: When last did you have a time of prayer when you really heard the Lord speak to your heart through the Scriptures, and how did that feel?
- ❖ Q: Why should our prayer time change us and cause us to respond?