

Lead us not into temptation...
(Life in the trenches.)
Matt 6.13

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one

We live out our Christian life in a war zone.

There is an enemy...

"...deliver us from the Evil One."

Evil comes in all kinds of shapes and sizes; "direct" and "indirect." But the Bible sees something else, something bigger, lying behind the evil in the world.

⁸ ...Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

...and we are in a battle

By choosing to follow God we end up in a battle.

Our lives are a battle ground...

When we begin to submit our lives to God, our lives become a battlefield.

We experience tension between our desire to follow God and please him, and the temptation to disobey him.

Those temptations come from three basic directions; from outside, from inside and from below; "the world," "the flesh," and "the devil."

...with the world

¹⁵ Do not love the world...(1 John 2.15-17)

The temptation is always there to allow our lives to be shaped and measured by something outside of ourselves other than the gospel.

...with the flesh

¹⁴ but each one is tempted when, by their own evil desire, they are dragged away and enticed...(James 1.14-15)

...with the devil

³ The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." (Matthew 4.2)

Some misconceptions about temptation

Temptation is not sin

Jesus was tempted (Matthew 4)

God doesn't tempt people

"God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone...." (James 1.13-15)

Defensive manoeuvres against temptation

Avoid it

"Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of evil. Avoid it, do not travel on it." (Proverbs 4:14-15) also 1 Cor. 10:13

Run away from it!

1 Cor 6.18; 10.14; 1 Tim. 6:9-11; 2 Tim. 2:22

Confess it

Some temptations are powerful, chronic inner struggles that need Jesus' cleansing.

Resist it

Matt. 4:1-11