

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Luke 11:1-4 “Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.’ So He said to them, ‘When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. *Give us day by day our daily bread.* And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. *And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.*”

Quote: “The temptation once yielded to gains power. The crack in the embankment which lets a drop or two ooze through is soon a hole which lets out a flood.”
Alexander MacLaren

Rescue from temptation is a desperately needful petition. The word translated “temptation” in Christ’s model prayer means “trial” or “test.” Even though He does not tempt us to do evil, God does test or sift us to discern the genuineness and quality of our faith. “Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one” “is a safeguard against a false sense of security and self-sufficiency.”¹ Paul warned, “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”² All too often we are complacent or callused about the temptations that bombard our senses. It seems as though everything around us has the sole purpose of wearing down our resolve and causing us to throw up our hands in defeat. As believers, we must respond to temptation as we would to a poisonous snake—*flee!* We must *fear* sin as a cancer that will grow in its capacity to destroy us if it is not dealt with speedily, seriously and completely.

A careful contrast of how Joseph and David handled temptation clearly illustrates these twin truths. Joseph *fled* because he guided his actions by principle. He asked Potiphar’s wife, “How can I do this great evil and *sin against my master and God?*”³ As recorded in II Samuel, David gave in because he guided his actions by pleasure. He **looked** upon something forbidden—“From the roof he saw a woman bathing.” He **lingered**

instead of fleeing— “The woman was very beautiful to behold.” He **lusted** after something forbidden—“So David sent and **inquired** about the woman. And someone said, ‘Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, *the wife of Uriah* the Hittite?’” That should have ended it, but David **let down** his guard— He “sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him and he lay with her.” In the end, David **lost**. He became an adulterer; a murderer; a callused hypocrite and a grieving father (four sons died as part of the harvest of his sin).

Believers must see every trial as a test through which the Holy Spirit will display and develop godliness through our obedience, or as a temptation through which yielding to our flesh could destroy lives, opportunities and relationships. We are told to focus on “our living hope” with the confidence that we are being kept by the power of God even in the midst of trials that are necessary to prove the genuineness of our faith.⁴ We are told to rejoice when we fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of our faith produces patience that will exercise us unto godliness as we persevere.⁵ James warns Christians that “each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”⁵ The Greek word for “drawn away “ describes wild game being lured into traps.”¹ Enticed means to “lure like a fish with bait.” Believers choose to take God’s escape path or to give in to temptation. Do our prayers for rescue from temptation give a clear indication of dependence upon God to enable us to see the way of escape that He always provides when the allurements of the world assault us?⁶ Like David, who learned that “the way of the unfaithful is hard,”⁷ we must daily pray, “Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.”⁸

1 J. MacArthur 2 I Cor.10:12 3 Gen.39 4 I Peter 1:5-7 5 James 1 6 I Cor.10:13 7 Prov.13:15 8 Psalm 19:13-14