



# DOVER DAILY DEVOTIONS

On Sunday we considered Jesus' final petition in the Lord's Prayer, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil," and we learned to pray it as watchful children in a dangerous world. We clarified that God does not tempt his people, yet he may lead us through testing for our good, and we asked the Father to steer us away from snares, strengthen us to stand, and rescue us from the evil one. Above all, we looked to Christ, who faced temptation without sin, intercedes for his people, and keeps us by his faithful power when our strength is small.

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## **Monday: A Prayer for the Battle We Are In**

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 6:13

We live in a world where sin still pulls, the flesh still protests, and a real enemy still opposes the people of God. This petition is a mercy because it teaches us to face that reality without panic.

The prayer is also tender. It assumes we are weak. It does not flatter us with the illusion that we are safe because we feel strong. It teaches us to ask our Father for what children need most in danger: guidance and rescue.

When we pray, "Lead us not into temptation," we are admitting that there are paths that would ruin us if we walk them. When we pray, "Deliver us from evil," we are confessing that we cannot always fight our way out. We need a Deliverer.

Thankfully the God who teaches us to pray this way is the same God who delights to answer it, because he loves to keep his children.

1. Where are you most aware of spiritual danger right now: in your thoughts, your speech, your appetites, or your relationships?
2. What is one way pride has kept you from praying plainly about temptation?
3. How would your week change if you treated this petition as daily bread for your soul?

**Prayer:**

Father, you know our weakness better than we know it ourselves. Forgive us for presumption and for prayerlessness in a dangerous world. Teach us to ask you daily to guard our steps and to rescue us when

evil presses in. Make us watchful without fear and humble without despair. Keep us near to Christ, our faithful Savior. Amen.

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## Tuesday: God Does Not Tempt

**Scripture Reading:** James 1:13–15

Some believers stumble over Jesus' words, "Lead us not into temptation," as if God might entice his children to sin. Scripture speaks plainly. God is not tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. The Father is never the seducer.

Yet Scripture also teaches that God may lead his people into testing. Testing exposes what is there and refines faith. Temptation aims to corrupt and destroy. Satan tempts to ruin, but God tests to strengthen.

James helps us see how temptation often works from the inside out. Desire is baited, sin is conceived, and death follows. The danger is not only out there in a wicked world. The danger also lives within us, in disordered desires that would like to be fed.

So we pray asking God to shepherd us, to spare us from trials that would overwhelm us, and to keep our hearts from taking the bait.

1. Do you ever blame God for temptations you have chosen to entertain?
2. What desire tends to bait you most consistently, and what would it look like to call it what it is?
3. How does it steady you to remember that the Father may test you, but he never tempts you?

### Prayer:

Holy Father, you are pure, and there is no darkness in you at all. Forgive us for excusing our sin and shifting blame instead of confessing honestly. Give us sober eyes to see temptation's bait and the death it promises. When you lead us through testing, strengthen our faith and keep us from falling. Shepherd us in paths of righteousness for your name's sake. Amen.

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## Wednesday: The Way of Escape

**Scripture Reading:** 1 Corinthians 10:13

God does not promise a temptation free life, but he does promise faithful help in times of temptation. He will not allow you to be tempted beyond your ability, and he will provide the way of escape.

Many of us fall because we keep negotiating with danger. We stand closer to the edge than we should, trying to prove we can handle it. This petition trains us to stop flirting with sin and start fleeing it.

So pray this promise into the moment. "Father, show me the way out you have promised, and give me grace to take it."

1. What is your most common pattern of lingering near temptation instead of fleeing?

2. What “way of escape” has God already been placing in front of you that you have been reluctant to take?
3. Who is one wise believer you could tell, “I am in danger, pray with me,” before the week ends?

**Prayer:**

Faithful Father, thank you that you do not abandon your children in the hour of temptation. Forgive us for bargaining with sin and trusting ourselves too much. Open our eyes to the way of escape you provide, and strengthen our wills to take it quickly. Give us humility to seek help and wisdom to place guardrails where we are weak. Keep us by your grace through Jesus Christ. Amen.

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## Thursday: Deliver Us From the Evil One

**Scripture Reading:** 2 Thessalonians 3:3

Jesus teaches us to ask not only for guidance but also for rescue. “Deliver us from evil” is a confession that we face enemies we cannot overcome. Scripture names them plainly: the world, the flesh, and the devil.

The good news is that the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. When you feel assaulted, confused, or worn thin, you are not trying to persuade God to care. You are placing your weight on promises he delights to keep.

This is where fear turns into resistance. The devil is not equal to Christ. He is a defeated rebel. So we pray this petition not as those who are doomed, but as those who are already rescued and redeemed.

1. Where do you feel most spiritually pressured right now, and how have you been responding to that pressure?
2. Do you tend to minimize the enemy or obsess over him, and how does God’s faithfulness correct both errors?
3. What would it look like today to replace anxiety with a simple plea: “Father, deliver me”?

**Prayer:**

Lord, you are faithful, and your power is not fragile. Forgive us for fear that forgets your promises and for self confidence that ignores real danger. Establish us in your truth and guard us against the evil one. Teach us to resist firmly in faith, not because we are brave, but because Christ has conquered. Deliver us, we ask, for your name’s sake. Amen.

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## Friday: God’s Means of Keeping Us

**Scripture Reading:** Ephesians 6:10–11

God often delivers his people by means. He can act without them, but ordinarily he works through gifts he has already provided. That should make us both thankful and serious.

He delivers us by his Word. Jesus answered temptation with Scripture. If the sinless Son fought with “It is written,” we should not imagine we can fight with feelings alone. The Word stored before the battle becomes strength in the battle.

He delivers us by his Spirit. The Spirit is the Helper who inclines the heart away from evil and toward Christ. When holiness feels dull and sin feels bright, we need the Spirit to make Christ sweeter than compromise.

He delivers us by his church. We were never meant to fight alone. Confession, prayer, wise warnings, and burden bearing are not optional extras. They are part of God’s ordinary protection for ordinary saints.

1. Which means of grace are you most tempted to neglect: Scripture, prayerful dependence on the Spirit, or honest fellowship with the church?
2. Where has isolation been strengthening temptation in your life?
3. What is one concrete step you can take today to put on God’s armor rather than relying on your own resolve?

**Prayer:**

Father, thank you that you do not send your children into the fight unarmed. Forgive us for neglecting the Word, resisting the Spirit, and hiding from the help of the church. Strengthen us in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Make your truth steady in our minds and your grace strong in our hearts. Keep us near to Christ, who is our righteousness and our peace. Amen.

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## **Saturday: Kept by Christ When We Are Weak**

**Scripture Reading:** Hebrews 4:15–16

Temptation often leaves believers ashamed. We wonder if God is tired of us. We assume we should stay away until we are stronger. Scripture gives the opposite counsel. We have a High Priest who sympathizes with our weakness, who has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

That means you can draw near with confidence, because Christ is merciful. He knows temptation from the inside. He knows the weight of it. And he knows how to supply grace in time of need.

This is also where the gospel steadies our footing. Your justification does not rest on your performance but on Christ’s finished work. You are not fighting for God’s love. In Christ, you fight from it. When you fall, you do not stay down. You confess quickly and return quickly.

So pray before the test, pray in the test, and pray after the test. And if you are outside of Christ, do not try to fight the world, the flesh, and the devil with nothing but your own strength. Come to the crucified and risen Lord. Then you will know God as Father, and you will learn this prayer as a child who is truly kept.

1. When you are tempted or have fallen, do you run toward Christ for mercy or away from him in shame?

2. What would “keeping short accounts with God” look like for you this week in specific confession and repentance?
3. Where do you need to ask, right now, for grace “in time of need,” not later when you feel more worthy?

**Prayer:**

Father, thank you for giving us a merciful and faithful High Priest in Jesus Christ. Forgive us for shame that hides and pride that pretends. Teach us to draw near with confidence, trusting Christ’s finished work and his sympathy for our weakness. Give us mercy and grace for help in time of need, and restore us quickly when we stumble. Keep us watchful, dependent, and hopeful in the victory of your Son. Amen.