



Sharing

Elijah Prayer Discipleship School

Becoming an instrument of prayer

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Building Fathers House

A Dwelling Place for God by the Spirit

(Discipleship=doing the will of God walking in submission of the authority of God so that you can become an instrument of authority)

Workshop no. 11 : “Lead us not in temptation” – acknowledging our own inability.

James 1: 12-14 *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: **But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.***

Purpose of workshop : To look into the secret of **acknowledging our own inability** in our prayer-life.

Intended Goal: To understand the **secret of not being drawn into temptation of unbelief** in a lifestyle of prayer.

Scripture readings :

Psalm 119:11 *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

Romans 6:11-14 *Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.** Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. **For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.***

1 Corinthians 10:12-14 *Therefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. **There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.** Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.*

Ephesians 6:10 *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

Hebrews 2:18 *For in that **He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succour them that are tempted.***

Hebrews 4:14-16 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. **For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.**

1 Peter 5:8-11 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: **Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, establish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.**

2 Peter 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

1 John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

James 1: 12-14 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

James 4:7-8 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

Judges 2:11-14 And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals. And they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. **They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the LORD to anger. They abandoned the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroths. So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he gave them over to plunderers, who plundered them. And he sold them into the hand of their surrounding enemies, so that they could no longer withstand their enemies.**

Food for thought :

Meaning of temptation.

A desire to do something, esp. **something wrong or unwise: "we gave in to temptation"**. A **thing or course of action** that attracts or tempts someone.

Used in KJV to refer to testing, trying, and enticing to evil. When the KJV was translated in 1611, "temptation" meant all of these, but the word has narrowed in meaning in modern times. Modern translations use "testing," "proving," "trying," and "tempting." Four distinct uses of the Hebrew (nsh) and Greek (peirazo) words for trying or tempting are:

"Lead us not into temptation"

God tests the loyalty or disloyalty of persons. God "tested" Abraham's loyalty to God when He told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Hebrews 11:17 says: "By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac." **In Deuteronomy 8:2 Moses said: "God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove (nsh) thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldst keep his commandments, or not."** (Compare Exodus 20:20 ; Judges 2:22 .) Christ also tested the loyalty of persons. Jesus asked Philip a question "to prove (peirazo) him: for he himself knew what he would do (John 6:6)."

Being **tested and being tempted** is not the same for the Word said that God will not tempt us.

James 1:12-14 *Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.*

James 1:18 *Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first-fruits of His creatures.*

In considering the above-mentioned, the Bible say that **blessed is the man who endures temptation, for it is through the overcoming that we receive our rewards.** Then the Bible remind us that we should not say that we are tempted by God, for God gave us His Word so that we might bear fruit, accordingly. Our **temptations come when we are drawn away from the Word of truth through our own desires and understanding.**

Being Children of God, recreated in Christ Jesus, the Bible say that He that is within us is creator than he that is of this world. *1John 4:4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.* When we ask "lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil" we as children of God **acknowledge that the flesh is weak, but that the Spirit within us is strong.**

It is not God who tempt us but our own desire and our lack of faith in God and His ability, thus we ask that God will deliver us from ourselves so that more of Him could manifest in our lives, destroying within us the desires of the flesh, and restoring within us a greater measure of faith in Him.

Some may suggest that in doing so we render ourselves as weaklings. This is not a sign of weakness, it is a sign of acknowledging our own inability to deliver ourselves from our own evil desires and enticements. We are not tempted by God, God test us to see if when the temptations come what we will do, do we still consider God and His ability or do we start to distrust God's ability to deliver us. Abraham was not tempted, but was tested with regards to his faith in God. The test came not because God just wants to test us, it came because God had a purpose with Abraham.

Temptation is to do something unwise, as we have learned from the Israelites who was tempted by fear to distrust in God and in His ability. But God said that He will render us a way by which we can escape, for our Lord Jesus being tempted is able to deliver us - the question is are we prepared to call on His name.

Deliver us from evil

Matthew 13:19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the **evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart.** This is what was sown along the path.

Evil in the eye of the Lord have always been, when we put our trust in foreign gods or run after other gods. To be deliver from evil is to be faith full to God, so in asking God to "lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil". We ask not to be drawn into disbelief, but that we will be delivered from placing our trust in anything or anyone else than God.

True story :

John 6:1 *After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples. Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near. Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little." One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?" Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. So when they were*

filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost." Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."

Genesis 22:1 Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you." So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. 7 But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

Numbers 14:1-11 So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" So they said to one another, "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt." Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel. But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.' Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them." And all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Now the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel. Then the LORD said to Moses: "How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them?"

God's authority :

Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Mark 14:38 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Luke 22:40-42 And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."

Luke 22:46 and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

John 17:15-18 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.** As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. **And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.**

2 Thessalonians 3:1 Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, and **that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful.** He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.

Mark 9:24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, **"I believe; help my unbelief!"**

Mark 14:15 Afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and **He rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw Him after he had risen.**

1 Joh. 2v15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. **If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.** And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

1 John 5:4-5 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. **And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.** Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Romans 8:7-9 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Hebrews 10:38-39 **but My righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him."** But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

Conclusion:

Consider Jesus who told His disciples to pray lest they fall into temptation. He himself practiced the same by praying to the Father in His time of temptation. We can learn from Jesus in the knowledge that His deliverance came when He said "thy will be done" as He placed His trust in the Father. **Sin is not doing the will of God i.e missing the mark.** In Jesus's explanation in *Matthew 7:23* "And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you **workers of lawlessness.**'" In calling them workers of lawlessness, Jesus declared that they did not act according to His will. Even though they have acted in His name, they acted not in obedience and not in a relationship.

In our relationship with God and His Son Jesus Christ, the relationship is based upon love, therefore Jesus said in *John 14:15* *If you love me, you will keep my commandments.* and also *1 John 2:3* *And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.*

God in His love gave us His Word and His Holy Spirit as a testimony of His love. In the Hebrew culture a bridegroom gives his bride to be certain prerequisites, so that while he is away preparing a place for her, she need to full fill this as proof of her love. The biggest temptation is to be drawn away from the truth, that is why Jesus asked the Father in *John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth*. If we are drawn away from the truth, unbelief can take root in our hearts, and unbelief is evil in the sight of God. Unbelief draw us into a place were we start relying on our human understanding and effort more than what we rely upon God.

Looking at Abraham, although he was tested by God, the biggest temptation he had was to rationalize the Word he received, not trusting in God and His ability, but to start rationalizing what he received from God to do. The Bible tells us that God requires obedience based on the fact that we trust in Him for who He is. Saul's temptation came when he started to listen to the people and decided that it would be good idea to make a offering unto God, a good idea is not a God idea.

Before we can take dominion over God's creation, we as created beings should first take dominion over ourselves, our own flesh, our desires, our own will and our own understanding and bring it under submission to the will of the Almighty God, and His Word. As we place our trust in Him and His ability disregarding and distrusting ourselves and our own inability, we can effectively pray "lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil".

Knowing that as we surrender ourselves unto God, that God is able to help us to be in obedience to His Word and in our submission unto His will, God is able to deliver us form evil. Evil being anything that is not of 100 % faith in Him, His Son Jesus Christ and His Word.

The wickedness of unbelief

For when Paul warns us, he said in *2 Thessalonians 3:2 and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith*. That there is a need to be delivered from evil men who does not share in the same faith is expressed by Paul. The mentioned remind us of the Israelites being draw away from faith in God and His ability, resulting in them not being able to enter the promised land.

Heb.3v12 Beware, brethren lest there be in any of you an **evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God**.

Heb.4v3 For the Word which they heard did not profit them not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

Numeri 14:11 Then the LORD said to Moses: "How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them? 12 I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them..."

Likewise we must not be drawn into the temptation of unbelief by evil men who desire discussions based on their own unbelief in God and in His ability.

The temptation that came to the Israelites in their time of testing came through unbelieving members whom the Word said rebelled against God for they did not trust in God to deliver them. Although temptation can come in different ways, it starts within ourselves as we are drawn away from God and His will through different ways, the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, the pride of life 1John2v16. Prayer, as Jesus suggested, being in fellowship with God and His Son Jesus Christ, and coming in submission to God and His will is the only effective means of not being open for temptation. Paul said in *2 Corinthians 9:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete*. In acknowledging that we have this weapon to our disposal to destroy the temptation and to deliver us from evil, let us be diligent in prayer to bring every argument and thought into obedience to God.

Questions to be answered :

1. What is temptation?

2. Who is tempting us?
3. What is evil in the eyes of God?
4. What protects us from temptation?
5. What is the secret that we need to learn from "lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"?