

The Pattern of Prayer (Part 3): Protection

Continuing with the “pattern” of prayer given by Christ to us
His disciples

One of the principle functions of fatherhood is protection

“Lead us not into temptation (by the devil)”

Not asking God to “lead us into temptation” — the implication is that the devil is the one who “leads” us into temptation

It is right to pray to be led away from “testing”

Luke 22:31–32 (NIV84)

Peter was “tested”, his faith was sifted by the enemy

Discernment - 1Corinthians 12:10 - “to another the discerning(s) of spirits”

Most of the time, God is not setting up a moment for testing.

Most often we are drawn by temptation toward things opposed to God

It is important that we can discern what is leading us.

“Deception” draws us by appealing to our desires. We’ve learned to rationalize, to justify, to accept what we are drawn by as “the new normal”

Temptation becomes the “new norm”

Discernment: revelationally informed assessment of a person or situation as to its origin and intent

Separates, distinguishes, between light and darkness

The enemy works to neutralize our understanding of what sin is by calling it “a preference”, a “free choice”

We can learn how to deny what we hear. We can’t hear the voice of God because we aren’t listening to the voice of God that continually speaks to us. We ignore the discernment that is “built in”, that is on the inside. We deny it with our own desires.

God expects us to respond to His voice with increasing sensitivity.

2 Corinthians 11:14

And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

1 Corinthians 2:10–15

1 Peter 2:9 - Discernment is part of our priesthood...we've been called out of darkness into light. Discernment is a function we have as priests of God.

Leviticus 10:8–11

Holy and common - those issues related to acceptable worship
Clean and unclean - those issues related to holy living

Eliminating the gray - Hebrews 5:14

God doesn't lead us by "shades of gray" with somethings lighter or darker than others. God intends that we know the difference.

¹⁴But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

We live in a time of "de-sensitization"; sin is progressive. become more sensitive

"Deliver us from evil"

a) Evil within - The sin nature

Romans 5:12

Romans 7:14–23 — "I'm unspiritual"; "I do what I don't want to do because sin lives within me"

Romans 8:5–14 — those who live according the Spirit, not controlled by the flesh.

b) Evil without

We live in occupied territory; occupied by the “rebellion”.
John 14:30–31

Life in the Spirit affords us the **POWER** for this deliverance - that we can ALSO proclaim “he has no hold on me”

Ephesians 6:10–18 — We are in a warfare as we live in the territory of “the world” where we have to resist, overcome. “You are going to have trouble in the world...” We need to understand that we have the victory.