

How to Prayer in Power Part 7: The Power of Inadequacy

October 15, 2023

Matthew 6:13

God has given us everything that pertains to life and godliness, 2 Pet. 1:3. We have been baptized into one body, 1 Cor. 12:13. We don't have the spiritual acumen to know truth or deception without the Spirit of God within us. We have been given the Spirit of Truth through Christ, 1 Cor. 2:6-16.

Interpretive Challenge: Is Jesus asking us to pray that God won't lead us into temptation? NO!. James 1:13-14, God cannot tempt to sin or be tempted to sin. This word "temptation" could also mean testing, trial, without reference to how someone responds to the testing or trial. Christians face trials with joy, but if we get angry, we can be tempted to sin, James 1:2, 4:1-3. There is a desire to be kept from evil. Us asking to avoid situations that could tempt or deceive us. Warnings in Scripture of temptation: Jn. 17:15, Mk. 14:38, Gal.6:1.

>>We should not be spiritually relaxed in our walk with Christ, be vigilant to know truth and expose deception. It is only the grace of God that protects us.

6 Disguises Which Satan Puts Forward to Deceive the Whole World, his nature and tactic:

Rev. 12:9, "deceives the whole earth." 2 Cor. 11:13-15, "transforms into an angel of light,"

- 1) **The Person of God:** Satan imitates the Father: Jn. 8:44, Satan called, "your father the devil." Satan imitates the Son: Matt. 24:5, bringing in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who saved them, 2 Pet. 2:1. These teachers are in the church, but reject salvation and they are denied by Jesus before the Father (Matt. 10:32). Satan imitates the Spirit: Eph. 2:2, the spirit who works in the sons of disobedience. Luke 22:3, Satan entered into Judas. He works in and fills people who are deceived to do his work.
- 2) **The Proclamation of God:** Gal. 1:6, Satan distorts and twists the Gospel. Paul preached Christ as Lord and the apostles His slaves, 2 Cor. 4:5. What are the doctrines Satan would pervert: Doctrines of: Grace, Rom. 5:8; Election, Eph. 1:4-5; Atonement, 1 Pet. 3:18; Divine Calling, Rom. 8:28; Conversion, Mk. 1:14-15; Regeneration, Jn. 3:3; Union with Christ, Gal. 2:20; Justification, 2 Cor. 5:21; Sanctification, Positional, Heb. 10:10; Progressive, 2 Cor. 3:18; Perfected, 1 Jn. 3:2; Perseverance & Preservation, 1 Pet. 1:5, Jn. 10:29; and Glorification, Rom. 8:30. >>**Satan seeks to pervert and distort the Gospel and these truths of the Gospel.** Satan distracts the proclamation of truth as outlined in Deut. 31:11-13: the formula of a life based on the preached word of God: *reading, hearing, learning, fearing, obeying, and living*. Distractions of Satan: A) Distracted Pulpit aimed at church growth. B) Distracted Life of missing sermons and gathering (Heb.10:24-25). C) Distracted Pastor wearied to study and preach, 1 Tim. 4:15. D) Distracted Heart not esteeming, respecting, and loving the Pastor's preaching, 1 Thess. 5:12-13, ones whose ears no longer hear because we have stopped loving and respecting our shepherds. E) Distracted Mind unable to stay focused. - Satan uses these distractions to make it difficult to hear and listen -so that obedience, living, and fearing don't take place.
- 3) **The People of God:** Satan has imitations in three levels: 1) Imitation Christians: weeds among the wheat, Matt. 13, 2 Cor. 11:13, Gal. 2:4, Matt. 7:21. 2) Imitation Shepherds: "his ministers" who preach a false Gospel, 2 Jn. 10:11. 3) Imitation Churches: Rev. 2:9, 3:9 "synagogue of Satan." The Catholic Church is a false church.

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- 4) **The Praise of God:** 1 Cor. 10:21-22, false worship is demonic. Rev. 2:9, 3:9 “synagogues of Satan.” Hymns replaced by songs that God needs us to feel complete. Lord’s Table no longer includes self-examination. Prayers to Jesus my buddy and pal, not in fear and awe. Preaching being an informal event of stories and chats. Offerings to get more from God not giving sacrificially. Shorter reading of Scripture passages because it is too difficult.
- 5) **The Preeminence of God:** He is our coming King. He has taken us from the kingdom of Satan into the Kingdom of His Son, Col. 1:13. We are citizens of Christ’s kingdom, sealed by the Holy Spirit, Eph. 1:13-14. The King is coming, Ps. 2.
- 6) **The Power of God:** Satan uses false signs and wonders. Deceived by emotionalism. The Gospel gets lost in false demonic signs. Greatest miracle is receiving a Holy God’s offer of salvation through Christ.
 - a. **The Antichrist will show with all power, signs and LYING wonders,** 2 Thess. 2:9, this is his power. Christ showed true power healing all sorts of diseases and sicknesses. John wrote that Jesus’ signs were written that we might believe and be saved, John 20:30-31. John further states that if all the wonders Jesus performed were recorded even the world couldn’t contain the books, Jn. 21:25. Satan is a deceiver and a liar- Jesus is the True Holy One.

Further Discussion and Application

The power of inadequacy is found in Matt. 6:13 by examining the power of deception in the world from Satan and our need for God our Father and Jesus the True King to save us. When have we been deceived to believe in a false Gospel or perversion of the truth? How did God rescue us? How do keep from falling prey to false teachers and doctrines?

Satan also uses people who are deceived to imitate true believers. How can we tell who the false Christians, shepherds, and churches are? 2 Pet. 2-3 and Rev. 2-3 give examples. Describe how false teachers and churches operate and what deceptions they use?

Paul’s commentary on Matt. 6:13 to “lead us not into temptation (testing, trial), but deliver us from the evil one,” comes from Eph. 6:10-20. What sobering truths about Satan are found in this passage? What truths about the source of our resistance and strength are found in this passage?

In this sermon we see our weakness to resist Satan apart from God’s salvation and regeneration of the Holy Spirit. Eph. 2:1 says we were dead, verse 2 says we were sons of disobedience, and verse 3 calls all of us children of wrath at one time. What is the blessing of our salvation in Eph. 2? What is the security of our salvation found in John 10:22-30?