

DELIVERANCE FROM SATAN

Matt. 6:13

We cannot pray this prayer honestly (if) we are dallying with ~~anyone~~ of sin or temptation. There is no use in asking God to deliver us from evil if we are going as far as we can to get at some temptation or excitement. But not so far as to suffer it's damage. Nor can we pray this prayer in honesty unless we emphasize the word "us". That we are including others. Individual men and women who are exerting bad influence. If they are responsible for cheap newspapers that are ruining the minds of individuals. Those who are commercializing amusements that are weakening the moral fiber of youth and the higher standards of manhood and womanhood.

The prayer here listed for our consideration is that God will deliver us from evil - is a pledge of our lives to help overcome all such evil that we can.

You do not put yourself in the way of danger. For example, put your head in a lion's jaw when there is no need for it - and then say, oh, Lord, don't let the lion bite me. Deliver me from the evil one.

You remember that the Lord said to the Devil, I will turn (Job) over to you but don't touch his life. Now I will admit that the evil one cannot blot your name out of the lamb's book of life. But if you violate God's commandments, it may be necessary as in the case of the Corinthians to turn you over to the buffetings of Satan. For awhile, that you may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. But now I pray, deliver me, from the evil one. Lord, don't let him

buffet me. 5 Words Describe Sin as

1. Miss the Mark - Target
2. Step across the line - Stay on Right Side.
3. Slip across the line - Hit foot on something.
4. Lawless - Willfulness -
5. Delts - Serious - Have you paid your debt to God.

Now if you love to keep the commandments of the Lord, he said he would send the Spirit. And the evil one would not have triumph over you.

He also said resist the Devil and he will flee from you. But the question today is - have you resisted him. Or have you gone with him and kept company with his people. Have you done business with him in the parties and in the theatres - more than you have in the Lord's house. Have you gone outside of that which the Lord has layed out for you. And put yourself in the lion's mouth - but the Lord said, if you will pray for the deliverance, you will get it. But now if you have gone out into the jungle which is the home of the lion, and then say, oh Lord, don't let the lion roar at me. I think that you will probably be mighty disappointed.

Deliver us from evil - from influence. From the evil environment.

Sin that doth so easily beset us - that we might run with patience the race that is before us.

Another way, rescue us from the power of the evil one.

This is what Paul had in mind when he said, oh death, where is thy sting. Oh grave, where is thy victory. Thanks be to God who giveth us victory through Jesus Christ.

Someone (built a high mountain) out of plaster of paris - and they fastened the Devil in some kind of red suit on top of it. A little girl asked her mother who is that up in the mountain in a red suit. Now I am glad she didn't ask me.

The mother began, well that is just make-believe. That stands for the Devil but he isn't really like that. Now, I just wonder what the conversation went like.

It seems to me that the mother was going off in the right direction. I hope that she got across to that little girl that here was a symbol in a red suit - a make believe. But there is nothing make believe about the Devil. The Bible presents the Devil in substantial form. He talks, he slanders the saints, he drops his sweet poison into the highest thoughts, he talks faith, and makes men traitors, he drives people mad, he tempted Jesus in the wilderness, and master-minds all the forces that brings about war and destruction as described in Rev.

There is nothing make-believe about the Devil in the Bible. And any honest man will tell you that there is nothing make-believe about the Devil in his life.

In Wartburg Castle there is a large (ink) stain on the wall. It marks the place where Martin Luther hurled a bottle of ink at the Devil in a moment of weakness and temptation. And that stain is a tribute to the demoniac powers within. Without which the Bible speaks of the Devil and his angels.

Jesus took the Devil seriously. And in this one sentence in his prayer - he said I want you Disciples to pray deliver us from the evil one. It is not just some impersonal thing that he is talking about. And he says, he is the evil one - that is what he calls it.

Now let's look at this.

I. SATAN'S SCHEDULE

I want first of all to think about the deliverance here - the schedule of Satan. It is very important for us to understand that the Devil has a schedule that always brings (surprises.) Usually he comes in a moment of unrecognized weakness.

He comes to us in the heights, he appears to us in the depths. He gets before us

in the moment of triumph. He gets ahold of us in the moment of defeat. And then he may come in the moment of crisis. The Devil is always alert and watching his chances.

His schedule is ~~(when you feel most secure)~~ our Lord warned Peter that the Devil was very near by. And Simon - behold Satan hath desired to have you that he may sift you as wheat. But I pray for you that your faith fail not. Luke 22:31-32.

Simon Peter felt very strong - Lord I am ready to go with thee both to prison and to death - V. 33. Within a few short moments, Satan was before him, breathing down his neck - leading him to deny that he every knew or had known Jesus Christ.

The person who says that is one thing I will never do, has something to learn first about himself and second, about human nature. The Devil comes when we feel the most secure.

This is particularly true with the Christian life. In the early years of our maturing, we are rearing our children. We are getting them educated. And now after the children have been sent off from home, life has settled down to a comfortable routine. There is minimum stress. Everything seems to be secure. But let me say, they are hazardous years spiritually.

This week I talked to a man that had a stroke. He is paralyzed on one side and cannot walk. He cannot use his hand. I talked to him many years ago about his need for spiritual things. With a sob, unbelievable, he said, I failed. No longer do we see, my friends, who feel secure. In the prayer meeting or in the house of God on Sunday. They feel no need of such a full busy day. Fatigue has taken its toll - they are right for a fall. And many times on Sunday, they skip the whole day by without worship.

The Devil sometimes comes when we are under stress. There is loneliness, there is helplessness, and there is frustration. And the tendency is to give up. Say, what is the use. Today, we would say - throw in the towel. Call it quits.

Elijah had such a moment.

Jeremiah had such a moment in the dungeon.

Ezekiel had such a moment.

Once again, when we are riding the crest - we are full of excitement and victory, and everything is going great. We have an impulse to let down, just once. In order to have a nice promotion or to succeed.

Many of the famous last words - (this once won't hurt.) We'll let down the bars just one time. Did you know that is why graduation time can be a perilous time in high schools, colleges, and universities.

Many times on the high crest of things, sweethearts pledge to each other - who are riding high. Businessmen pushing, and in a moment the Devil comes when they are weakest and when they have let down their guard. He never lets up. He is always ready.

The Devil is effective because of the sinful nature of man. And we are to pray not to fall into the hands of the temptor. With God's help, we must somehow free ourselves from the bondage of Satan. And the only possible way that we have to frustrate his schedule is to pray in the power of prayer that we confess to God.

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That the Lord who is greater than the temptor. In prayer we can see things that are contrary to God's will. And that are tempting. In prayer we acknowledge that sin is something we do not want to serve.

In this prayer, we acknowledge the reality of evil. Evil is a strange thing and the holy scriptures tell us very little about its origin. They tell us much about the existence of God. And we know about the demons and the powers against God and against God's goal and God's schedule. Thereby the church of Jesus Christ, has to do battle on the battlefield. But the fighting is not visible except in the church. Where evil is part of the revelation that has come to her.

Non Christians and non-believers can have any idea of this battle. They may know a little bit about it. But they cannot explain it. Only the Holy Scriptures know that Satan and his work stands against God. And only Scripture knows that the final victory is going to be in Jesus Christ. And this is not in the abstract.

John 8:44, I John 3:8 - we discover that Satan and his forces gather against God and his kingdom. Matt. 12:22.

Satan has his helpers. We never read in the Scriptures about God - that there are other Gods. But we do read in the Scripture that there is the Devil and there are other Devils. Evil is thus separated into numerous anti-God forces. That ultimately work under his will.

His co-workers are dependent upon Him.

And strange to say, most of the forces that work for Satan do not admit that they are doing service for evil. When this happens, in individual circles, we see the perversion of religion.

He makes men themselves evil. But always by disguising himself with the claims of goodness.

Men can only recognize the schedule and betrayal of Satan when the Word of God has opened their eyes. When we pray for deliverance from evil and pray against the evil one - then we discover the reality of it and our protection against it.

II. SATAN'S STRATEGY

We talked about his schedule that comes least expected. Now his strategy is move in at close range. You cannot see him or smell him, or touch him. But you know that he is there.

Paul once described it - he wrestled with him but not in flesh and blood. The struggle goes on in the mind and in the heart. And here is a struggle. A man can see bad or he can see good. And man is not a machine. But a man can make a choice.

Man can put his best foot forward.

Now a man can be as pious as a nun or quote Scripture like a bishop. But the Devil is far too smart for that. He comes to you and says, 'you deserve the best.' I'm going to give you what you ought to have.¹⁰ Just do what I tell you. That is exactly what he told Adam and Eve in the garden. And the serpent told Adam and Eve some very sweet words.

That is the way he does today. I heard about a lady who was something of a spend-thrift. And this was her husband's agony. She loved pretty clothes and in one

of her routine sessions about the first of the month - her husband said, the next time you go shopping and you are tempted to buy something we can't afford, you say, "get behind me Satan."

A few days later the wife came home with a new dress. It was a wonderful meal that night and the husband became suspicious. At last, the new dress was brought out. The husband's only comment was - I thought I told you to tell the Devil to get behind you.

To which the wife brightly remarked, honey, I did. "It looks as good from back here as it does from up front."

The Devil is good with words and it is his aim to out-talk us. He has a real strategy.

To the sensual man, the Devil runs in skirts. To the bold man, the Devil's bid is to live by nerve and sensation and instinct. To the timid man, the Devil says withdraw. Play it safe. To the quiet man, he gives him some bait of knowledge. To the lazy man, the Devil whispers tomorrow. The Devil has a strategy.

The Devil works to obstruct God's Lordship. And this is the frightening thing. It does not remove Satan's effectiveness from his church. The prince of this world will lead her into temptation as long as there is a church. Wherever the Gospel seed goes. There are seed of weeds planted in the wheat. And so Satan is always at work. Matt. 13:24. He mixes with sons of evil - among the sons of the kingdom of God. So that the church can never present herself before the world in purity, as the church of the redeemed. 13:37.

He misleads the believers - to deceive them of the appearance of being good.

And this impresses men and the church falls into the trap. He talks to the church about some big goals some staggering things. Some persuasive things. All of this is delusion - deception. Intending to keep the Christians from their real task. (To witness to their Lord.)

Thus the Devil destroys the church of God on earth. Most often by showing her great possibilities and giving her extra ordinary means to fulfill them.

The church's path is always skirted and walking on the edge. Her service is always endangered by the desire to look and see what the world offers. Then inquire, and say now, is this what God wants. The Devil leads the church away from God with what he has to offer and thus destroys her trust in God. John 17:15. 2 Tim. 4:18.

That is why Jesus calls his people to prayer and watching. He has come to destroy the works of the Devil. I John 3:8.

The strategy of the Devil is to destroy.

III. SATAN SUBDUED

James 4:7-8

Deliver us from the terrors. Can we do it in our own strength. Can a man do it by his own choosing. Do we desire to be drawn from the divine power by evil.

Is it your desire to be weened from the love of evil. To be rescued, to be snatched. You have a short life here. Your days are going to be very few. Evil is going to come. And what is going to be your choice.

Satan's representatives are many. Now what can subdue Satan. God alone can

curb the power of Satan. It is foolish for a man to say that he is going to wage his own war and go out and conquer Satan alone. Which is impossible. Jesus Christ is the victory over the Devil.

In the book of James 4:7-8, it is a very practical message. Listen. Resist the Devil and he will flee from you.

Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you. There is the way to subdue the Devil. But nothing needs to be said, put up a fight, do the best you can. And if you are honest, that will be enough.

The entire substance of this prayer is directed against the Devil. Think about it. The battle with temptations, the battle with evil, the Christian can trust himself to God and commit himself all the way.

John 5:14 - if a man remains unto Sin - he can no longer belong to the kingdom of God. Redemption would have happened in vain in his case.

Rom. 7:24, Rom. 8:22 - When Jesus says we should sin no more, it's possible only because of his death. He snatched us away from the kingdom of the Devil. Eph. 2:2. He granted us to share in the victory.

This gives hope to the Christian - living strength. We know that the enemy has already been conquered and God lets us share in the battle. And the life of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ is under attack. And the service of love, and the praise of God is being robbed by Satan.

God always leads his church so that through her, he shall make his mercy effective. But he proclaims the message of salvation - and thereby God's mission makes an attack.

An attack on the kingdom of evil. He sends his church to the foreground. Through the proclamation of the Gospel. Whereas the Devil always works to deceive men. God found the church to reveal himself. To make his ~~name~~ known and the church can pray in this battle.

When we pray in this way, Acts. 4:24 - 28 - and the church yields to the will of her Lord, through her prayer, she is placing herself at the disposal and surrendering unto him.

Paul and Silas prayed an effective prayer while they sang their hymns of praise - the doors of the prison opened. But God's Gospel was open and clear. The church has always had persecution. But its greatest weapon is prayer. And the more we rely upon prayer, the more we repel the on-sloughs of the Devil.

Prayers, at all times, with supplication - to that end keep alert with all preserverance making supplication for all the saints and also for me. That utterance may be given me in opening my mouth boldly. Eph. 6:18.

The church, the watchful church, prays for herself, prays for her members. She always remembers that she is a representative in a pagan world. And the church knows her enemies. And the church becomes a real praying fellowship. That breaks through to the front. And therefore suffering always means victory. Rom. 16:20.

Once upon a time there was a family of wayward church members, Who had been a ctive once, who lost their interest, and had fallen away. There was a father and three sons - Jim, John and Sam. The elders had talked to them about their sad condition and the preacher had visited them. And tried to get them back to church. But all of this did not seem to do the least bit of good. One day the boys were out in the pasture and a long rattle snake bit John. He became very ill

and the physician was called. And after examination, he pronounced John to be in a very critical condition. He said about all you can do now is pray. The father called the preacher and told him of John's condition and asked the preacher to pray for John's condition and recovery.

And this was the prayer of the preacher -- as recorded in the Tenn. Bapt. Paper.
Oh wise and righteous father, we thank thee that thou has in thy wisdom sent his rattle snake to bite John. In order to bring him to his senses. He has not been inside the church for years and it is doubtful that he has in all that time felt the need for prayer. Now we trust that this will prove a valuable lesson to him. And it will lead to genuine repentance. And now, oh Father, wilt thou send another snake to bite Sam, and another to bite Jim. And another big one to bite the old man. We have all been doing everything we know for years to restore them. But to no avail. It seems therefore that all of our combined efforts did not do what this snake has done. We thus conclude that the only thing left that will do this family any good is rattle snakes. So Lord, send us bigger and better rattle snakes, in the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Psalm 51:1-3,4 David Prayed This Prayer

Yes, if you are going to subdue Satan - you have to think about this. I read a prayer the other day about a man sitting on Sunday morning. Almighty God, as I sit by the fire, on this lovely day, surrounded by the Sunday paper. Half listening to one of the big preachers over the radio or T. V. It has come to me that I have lied to Thee and to myself.

I said I did not feel well enough to go to church - and that was not true. I was not ambitious. I would have played golf if it had been Wednesday afternoon. And I would have gone to the luncheon if it had been noon. I would have been going to a picture show if it had been Friday. But it is Sunday morning and Sunday uncovers a multitude of sins. God have mercy on me - I have lied to Thee and to myself.

I was not ill. I was lazy and indifferent. Amen.

Murray tells about a friend of his who was spiritually mean for a long time and he turns around after he made money in his life, drinking, and was running with a fast crowd. Lost thousands of dollars at the casinos and on the horses. The only thing that held together was his marriage and that was almost on the rocks. But the prayer of his wife - finally he came back after months. A few weeks after that experience of (renewal) he was in Detroit, Michigan, on Saturday and he had an appointment. He was feeling depressed and he was alone. He thought some fresh air might do him some good - so he strolled out. His eye caught a beautiful young woman lingering in a suggestive sort of way, his plans began to change. He took a place in the lobby where he could wait and watch. And waiting for the moment he was going to approach that young woman and offer her an invitation to the bar. Suddenly he realized what was happening and dropped his head in his hands, breathed a prayer for strength, and turned and walked away and has been walking every since. The Lord has been walking with him in his life and he has been marvelously used of God.

Now you can't fight the Devil unless you put up a fight. And you can't conquer him - and you can't subdue him. He has already run the race and won the victory. Until you have come to the place to pray this prayer - Lord, lead us not and deliver us from evil.

Some one has Pray Lord Deliver me Sin - Evil - Lust - Scandalous Evil -
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