

PRAYER FOR TEMPTATIONS AND TRIALS

May 26, 2013 Matthew 6:13 by Bob Branch
Connecting With God Thru Prayer, Part 7

MAIN IDEA: You can go through a trial and fail or you can go through one and prevail. Fail or Prevail has much to do with your foundations and your prayer life.

“Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” **Matt. 6:13**

peirasmos, Greek 1) a test/trial or 2) a temptation/an enticement to sin.

A **test** is meant to prove a person’s character & faith, & then improve it.

A **temptation** is meant to entice a person to sin, to bring a person down.

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything... Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.” **James 1:2-4,12**

“Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.” **Revelation 2:10** (John 10:10)

“When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone” **James 1:13**

VULNERABLE!

1. Admit VULNERABILITY and WEAKNESS, and ask for protection and escape. It is to look inward (ever so briefly), then up to the Lord with dependent trust.

“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” **Matthew 26:41**

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.” **2 Cor. 12:9**

PRAYER: *Father, I admit my vulnerability and weakness to you today. I can be easily tempted. I know that my enemy is cunning and powerful, but I also know your power is superior in every way, and your victory on the cross released that power in me. I admit that I am weak, but you are strong, and you are for me. Protect me, Lord, and rescue me.*

GOD IS GOOD!

“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.” **Luke 22:31-32**

“So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you have to endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.” **1 Peter 1:6-7** NLT (4:12-13)

2. Acknowledge that God will use trials to PROVE and IMPROVE your faith and your character. We look up, and we surrender.

PRAYER: *Father, I know you use trials to mold and shape me, to refine me, and increase my trust in you. I agree that these are good, because you are good, and I surrender to you and what you are doing in my life today and in this season. Help me to cooperate with you, instead of resist you, as you sculpt me to be more like Jesus.*

HELP!

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” **Hebrews 4:15-16**

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” **Ps. 46:1** (28:7; 54:4)

3. Ask for HELP and grace in trials, so that we are REFINED rather than taken down. Look up, and reach up.

PRAYER: *Father, today I ask for your help, your strength and your grace in the trials I am going through. I welcome your refining work, as well as the grace and trust to prevail in them. I look up to you for help, and I reach into your heavenly storehouse for all I need.*

DISCERNMENT!

“The evil one seeks to turn tests into temptations.” **Darrell Johnson**

4. Ask for DISCERNMENT to know the origin of the test, the strategy of the attack, and to be rescued from all the evil one’s efforts. Look out with an upward perspective.

PRAYER: *Father God, I need discernment to know how to face these trials. I need your perspective to see what is a refining trial, what is demonic attack, and how you want me to stand in all of it. I also humbly and boldly ask for your protection today, and that you would deliver me from all the snares of the evil one.*