

## *Battle Against My Will*

### *The Disciples' Prayer*

Of all the petitions in the Disciples' Prayer, perhaps the most perplexing is the phrase "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." The preceding requests for a holy and loving Father to forgive us and to feed us no doubt would flow naturally from our understanding of His character. But would a holy, loving God consider leading us into temptation in the first place?

### WELCOME

*What do you believe is the biggest challenge from the world that would keep you from succeeding in your walk with God?*

### WORD

Read Matthew 6:9-13

1. *Doesn't the petition in verse 13 sound a lot like, as a child, asking your father not to lead you into the street to play? How do you reconcile this petition with passages like James 1:13-15?*
2. *Does every trial necessarily have to turn into a temptation? If not, what is the key factor that prevents this from happening?*
3. *What common thread of truth runs through passages like Job 23:10, 1 Corinthians 10:13 and 1 Peter 1:6-7?*
4. *Is it right for us to ask God to protect us from sin as we encounter various trials and troubles? What if it is ultimately God's will for us to experience these particular things? Explain.*
5. *Some people would rather merely pray the words of the prayer than stay out of situations that would present themselves with evil enticements. By contrast, what is the godly way of dealing with temptation? Use biblical references to support your answer (for example, James 4:7-8; Matthew 4:4-11).*

*PRAYER REQUESTS  
AND REFLECTIONS*

### WORKS

The Disciples' Prayer isn't so much a petitioning exercise, as it is a conditioning exercise. God doesn't need to hear our requests as much as we need to consciously make them. *As you look back at the six petitions modeled in this prayer, what petition--more than any other--do you need to deliberately focus upon in your prayers right now?*