

## The Family that Prays... // 6-7th Petitions // 09.18.16

Have you noticed? Things can often come at you from all directions? You get home. Your spouse, kids, dog, chores, and TV need you! You watch martial arts, cops and robbers, war movies. Attackers come from everywhere! Jay Cutler tries to pass. JJ Watt, Jadeveon Clowney, and Vince Wolk are coming! Payday comes. The bills line up to be paid. The same is true for our spiritual lives. Temptations are everywhere. The lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and pride of life consume us. Like a mosquito, we get sucked in and zapped. We feel under attack, at war, with the Devil, the world, and our sinful nature!

Today, we continue our life lesson series, **"The Family that Prays Together..."** As you know, the conclusion is "Stays together!" In this series, we've talked about how prayer, speaking to God in words and thoughts, is key to family! We've talked about how families must pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17), pray and never lose heart (Lk. 18:1), be constant in prayer (Rom. 12:12b), and pray about everything (Phil. 4:6). In fact, prayer is SO important, Jesus gave us the Lord's Prayer to help us. Today, let's look at The Sixth and Seventh Petitions and this spiritual battle against the Devil, the world, and our sinful nature!

The Sixth Petition says, **"And lead us not into temptation."** What does this mean? In the Bible, (tempt)ation refers to an act of testing (trying) or an enticement to evil. It is anytime we must decide for or against God, for good or for evil. **Blue card.** The Small Catechism says, **"God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory."**

We all can quickly realize that Satan, the devil, the Evil One, his goal is to deceive and destroy our families. Originally, Lucifer was a holy angel. But, he led a rebellion against God. And, to this day, he remains opposed to God and all that's good. **1 Peter 5:8 (ESV)** says, "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." As a result, our families and faith are under attack! Satan wants to lure us in and lead us away from God. Thus, **As Christians, we pray that our Father would keep us strong in His Word** since our faith is under constant threat.

**The Seventh Petition** says, "But deliver us from evil (the evil one)." What does this mean? **Blue Card.** The Small Catechism says, "We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven." In this present age, sin, death, and Satan rule. Enticement to evil is ever present. We all know and experience it! Thus, **As Christians, we pray that God would rescue us from the evil one both now and forever.**

You may not think it's important. But, the devil even tried to tempt Jesus! While Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness, **ESV study Bible** says, "The devil made a diabolical attempt to subvert God's plan for human redemption by causing Jesus to fall into sin and disobedience, thus disqualifying Him as the sinless Savior." Thanks be to God! Jesus resisted the devil by standing firm on God's Word! And, thanks be to God, your family can do the very same! He provides us with the Word of Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the gift of prayer as our armor and weapons to stand firm against the schemes of the devil!

Amen.

Let's pray. Lord, in the Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches us how to praise God, pray for His work in the world, pray for our daily needs, and pray for help in our daily struggles. Lord, in our families, help us pray, "And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." Lord, we know the devil, the world, and our sinful nature try to mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great sins. Lord, in our families, guard and keep us, so that temptation to evil may not come upon us. Lord, strengthen and preserve us when You permit temptation to come, so that in the end we may overcome it and obtain victory!