

## **“But Deliver Us From Evil!”**

(08-04-13)

Let's look at the 7<sup>th</sup> petition by reading it aloud and Luther's explanation. *The Seventh Petition* - "But Deliver Us From Evil!" *What does this mean?* 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 various translations, this petition is given as, "*But deliver us from the evil one,*" or, "*Save us from the evil one.*" As we saw last week, the Christian's conflict is essentially a contest with Satan. So we pray in this Petition for deliverance from evil and the evil one! Don't look the other way thinking they don't exist! They're right at our door!

It's not a matter of dealing with sin or self, but rather a matter of being tempted by Satan through our natural tendency to sin! We sometimes think sin, self, and Satan as three separate things, but in reality they are closely tied together!

Luther - "*This petition God has placed last; because if we are to be guarded and freed from all evil, His name must first be hallowed in us, His kingdom be in us and His will be done by us. Then He will finally preserve us from sin and shame, and from everything else that harms or injures.*"

This Petition is not just a good-luck charm! We have a loving Father Who hears our prayer and can do something about it! He can help, and He will! He does care, and He will take our hand and guide us through every temptation we face!

Don't ever forget. Our Father doesn't want to see us fall. He doesn't want to see us struggling with self, and stained by sin. He loves us and He showed that as He sent Jesus Christ to pay the penalty for our sins! He wants us to walk by faith and be seen as clean by the blood of Jesus.

There are 3 definite and positive ways our Father delivers us from evil. We need to remind ourselves that no matter how often or how hard we fall into temptation, the first way He delivers is that He is always there. He's always available!

As His children, the Holy Spirit is inside us. When we fall into temptation, we have to remind ourselves that He's there and consciously turn to Him. His response to our simple, sincere prayer gives tremendous strength to our tempted souls!

The 2<sup>nd</sup> way He delivers us is that, through the Holy Spirit, He gives us spiritual common sense. He wants us to use it in avoiding temptation! All of us have areas in our lives where we give in to temptation and sin. This is standing on the slippery edge of a pond. Maybe we've fallen in before, but we insist on standing on the edge anyway thinking we won't fall again!

Open to Luke 11. If we don't think we have enough strength to stay away from the places and things that cause us to sin, then we need to ask God to give us an extra measure of His Spirit so we can stay strong! Look at Jesus' words in verses 11-13, "*What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!*"

The 3<sup>rd</sup> way He delivers us from evil, is that He give us ability to battle it. Each one of us is going to face times that we realize we're struggling with Satan and we didn't see it coming. We find ourselves caught up in the evil and the fight to not sin is fierce! It's at times like this, we sometimes don't feel God's presence or His care!

So what is a strategy for beating Satan? James 4:7 gives us the first way, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you!" Many times we think there's no way we can resist him. There's no way to stop the temptation or falling in. We give in and give Satan ground and willingly fall into sinning without a struggle! Instead, we need to resist him!

God doesn't give us the spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-control. When we know God's Will and what is right, we need to be courageous enough to stand firm! We have to remember that Jesus Christ defeated Satan, and as His faithful children, we can have that victory as well!

Think back with me to when Jesus was tempted by Satan. With every temptation that Satan threw at Him, Jesus responded quickly and confidently with God's Word! Remember though, Satan knows the Word of God, too!

To stand firm against Satan, you have to arm yourself with God's Word! You need to read it daily! Think about what it says and what it says to you! You need to commit it to memory so you know exactly what to say against Satan as you fight against him, just like Jesus did!

Open to Jude. Your confidence to fight and stand firm, doesn't come from you, but in the character and strength of your Father in heaven Who delivers you! He sees you as His child, knows exactly why evil assails you, and He will free you from it!

To close, look at the promise to you in Jude 24-25, "*Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.*"