

"Deliver Us From Evil"

Sixth Petition in the Lord's Prayer

1Peter 5:5-14

February 29, 2004
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This exhortation follows an exhortation to the elders of the church to be examples to the flock and to feed them. It is the Lord's will that the churches be organized according to His will and that the offices that He has ordained be established in them. We resist the ordinance of God, and bring trouble upon ourselves if we imagine that we are wiser than God, and neglect and despise the gifts that He gave to us when He ascended up on high. It is God's will that we humble ourselves and be content to be ruled by the human authority that He has established. Not to do so is to fall under the power of the devil, for it is through God's wise provision that we have been given a way to escape temptation.

Question 127 of the Catechism states:

Q127: What is the sixth petition?

A127: And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; that is, since we are so weak in ourselves that we cannot stand a moment,[1] and besides, our deadly enemies, the devil,[2] the world,[3] and our own flesh, [4] assail us without ceasing, be pleased to preserve and strengthen us by the power of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may make firm stand against them and not be overcome in this spiritual warfare,[5] until finally complete victory is ours.[6]

Our text in 1 Peter. 5 might almost be considered a commentary on the Sixth Petition in the Lord's Prayer:

5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

1. “Younger” means those under authority; just as “elder” is an office, as well as a condition of life, so ‘younger’ means those in subjection, as well as those of few years. Just as some “presbyters” were not older people, so some of the “younger” are not necessarily young people. There is a general duty of all young people to hold the aged in respect and honor; so it is the duty of those under authority to respect the offices that God has ordained.

2. The duty of the younger to submit to the elder is a part of the larger Christian duty to submit one to another. Not only is the wife to submit to her husband, but the husband is to submit to his wife. There is a mutual responsibility; the roles are different, but the submission is of the same kind. A wise king is the slave of his people; the wise CEO looks after the needs of his company; the wise father spends much time looking after the needs of his family, and submits to this necessity.

3. “Put on Humility as a garment.” “Be clothed” refers to a garment like an apron that some one would wrap about themselves and tie. It is a clear reference to the time that Christ washed the disciples feet, having girded himself with a towel. Elder must submit to the duties of their office; to care and tend for the sheep; and the church can only prosper if there is an attitude of mutual service to one another.

4. God resists the proud; and gives grace to the humble. Not that humility earns grace as a reward, but the gracious God operates on the soul that receives grace, and humbles it. A proud heart is a graceless heart. Pride is the very sin of the devil himself, and brings the united opposition of God in all His attributes.

5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

1. God rewards humility everywhere He sees it; even if it is only worn as a garment. Old wicked king Ahab put on sackcloth and ashes, and went softly, and God saw and postponed judgment. The most devilish thing is to add stubbornness and a hardened countenance to sin; Sometimes people say, “you might as well say it as think it.” This is not a Christian statement, for sin is perfected in the action, according to James. It is true that the thought of sin is punished by God; but when the body becomes the accomplice of the soul in the acting out of sin, then stubbornness and contumacy are added.

2. Under the mighty hand of God. Here is a strong, smart, and talented man. He is submitting to being put under anesthetic in a hospital. A little scrawny doctor comes in, takes a knife, begins to cut holes in this strong, smart, and talented man, removing body parts and

throwing them away. Why would this strong, smart, and talented man consent to such a thing? Because he trusts the doctor to cure him of some deadly disease. The Holy Spirit is calling us to a active commitment to the operating hand of the all-wise, all powerful God. (under the hand). “Hand” means his power and providence. Do not fight it, but submit: the purpose of God is to conform you to the image of Jesus Christ, to His will and his way and his character, which includes patience as well as other things.

5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

1. “Care” means the anxiety, or the “double-mindedness” that comes with troubles. Troubles cannot be avoided, or cast away. If you are in a financial pickle, you have to do something; you cannot just throw the problem away; but you can cast the anxiety upon the Lord.
2. “Care” = drawing off in different directions. Anxiety comes when our minds are drawn off from the Lord because of the troubles of life.
3. Every crisis we have in our life is a crisis of faith. There is never any other problem that we face. Anxiety over anything comes because we have moved away from the promises of God. When we rest in the promises of God, we work, and rest, and worship, and love one another in the peace of God. Those who rest in the promises of God, are not lazy and useless; instead, they are active and productive, because they believe the promises, that their labor is not in vain. Those who rest in the promises are not fighting and fussing with each other; I do not need to sanctify you; God knows how to do that very well, and does not need my help.

5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 5:9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

1. It is most fitting that a warning about the devil comes in the middle of a lesson about humility. Jesus tells us what the sin of Satan was: It was the double sin of murder and lies, both of which come from pride. Proverbs 13:10 “Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.” Lies come from the pride of seeking to manipulate reality according to your own inflated ego; murder has the same root; the humble man is no liar or murderer.
2. The elevation of pride in the heart is the devil’s own work: “Be like God,” he whispered to Eve.

3. Satan is to be resisted in the faith. Not in faith, but in the faith.

4. It is not necessary to use the devices of the heathen: amulets, charms, spells, exorcisms, or such things. Jesus and his apostles demonstrated that Satan is overthrown and defeated.

5. We stand firm in the faith, as Paul tells us in Ephesians 6: 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. 5:11 To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

1. There is no promise in the Bible that the Christian will escape hard times and troubles and tribulation. But four words so set forth the promise of God: The tense in the Greek, shows that they are a promise, not a wish.

2. Perfect. This is to complete you. To fully save you and fully equip you for the purpose of God. Perfect is the goal; the three futures are God's promises on how He perfects us.

3. Stablish: Prop up, to make firm. Steadfast and faithful. To be dependable. A great deal of the work of the ministry is propping people up. Helping them be strong where they are weak; encouraging them to do the right thing; encouraging them to stand for the truth of Christ. This is the work of parents also; to prop up their kids; firm them up; make them strong minded and firm. It is God, of course, that does this, by bringing tribulations into our lives to cause us to rely on him. This is in terms of the care and anxiety mentioned above.

4. Strengthen: This is another way of saying a similar thing, with the emphasis on strength, not faithfulness. To give the ability, the equipment to perform active service.

5. Settle: to lay a foundation. This has been laid in Jesus Christ for the church; and this foundation needs to be laid in the heart and life of the believer; and it is God who does this. Without the solid foundation, there can be no building and no progress.

6. The Sixth Petition is a prayer that we might be strengthened by God; a confession that we have no strength in ourselves, but we are so weak that we will fall in a moment if we do not have the strength of God.

7. The Sixth Petition in the Lord's Prayer is directly related to offenses that we spoke of last week: It must needs be that offenses come: that we be offended by others; but we recognize that these offenses are a great danger to us, for it is so easy to react in pride, arrogance, in wrath and malice, the very work of the devil;

8. Hence, the prayer is an admission that we live and move and breathe in God: that we have nothing apart from Him. He is the Vine and we are the branches. Every step along the way is a step that He controls and directs. We are praying that every step would be not be greater than we can bear.

May God bless you.