

# THE PROTECTION OF JESUS

## *The Prayer of Jesus (Part 7)*

*Matthew 6:13*

*(originated by Dr. Stan Reeder)*

### INTRODUCTION:

*A mother was teaching her three year old daughter the Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, she repeated it after her mother. One night she said she was ready to solo. The mother listened with pride, as she carefully enunciated each word right up to the end . . . "And lead us not into temptation", she prayed, "but deliver us some e-mail, Amen."*

I think my prayer would be more along the lines of *"Deliver us from e-mail!"*

A careful study of the Greek for Matthew 6:13 gets right to the heart of what Jesus would have us pray:

**και μη** - and not - **εισενεγης ημας** - bring us - **εις πειρασμον** - into temptation, trial, calamity. . . and not bring us into trial, or calamity.

**αλλα** - but - **ρυσαι ημας** - rescue us, drag us out of danger – **απο** - from, put as much distance as possible between us [and] – **του** - the definite article "the" which is missing in many English translations - **του πονηρου** – the evil one, the devil.

***Bring us not into calamity, but deliver us from the devil!***

*Stevie Wonder and Jack Nicklaus are at the pool of a hotel that they both are staying at. Nicklaus turns to Wonder and says: "How is the singing career going?"*

*Stevie Wonder says: "Not too bad, I'm still doing some big gigs. By the way how's the golf."*

*Nicklaus replies: "Not too bad, I am not winning as much as I used to but I am still making a bit of money. I have had some problems with my swing but I think I have got that right now."*

*Stevie Wonder says: "I always find that when my swing goes wrong I need to stop playing for a while and not think about it, then the next time I play it seems to be alright."*

*Jack Nicklaus says: "You play golf!"*

*Stevie Wonder says: "Yes, I have been playing for years."*

*And Nicklaus says: "But I thought you were blind, how can you play golf if you are blind?"*

*He replies: "I get my caddy to stand in the middle of the fairway and he calls to me – 'Stevie', I listen for the sound of his voice and play the ball towards him, then when I get to where the ball lands the caddy moves to the green or further down the fairway and again I play the ball towards his voice."*

*"But how do you putt", says Nicklaus.*

*"Well", says Stevie, "I get my caddy to lean down in front of the hole and call to me with his head on the ground – 'Stevie', and I just play the ball towards his voice."*

*Nicklaus says: "What is your handicap."*

*Stevie says "Oh, I play at par."*

*Nicklaus is incredulous and he says to Stevie, "We must play a game sometime." Wonder replies: "Well people don't take me seriously so I only play for money, and I never play for less than \$100,000 a hole."*

*Nicklaus thinks about it and says "OK, I'm up for that -- when would you like to play?"*

*"I don't care -- any night next week is ok with me."*

When it comes to Dealing with the Devil . . . for far too many Christians it is kind of like golfing in the dark. I want to give you principles for dealing with the devil.

## **PRINCIPLES FOR DELIVERANCE FROM THE DEVIL:**

The first principal for deliverance from the devil is . . .

### **1. The reality principal (John 10:10):**

***The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy (John 10:10).***

Jesus certainly knew of the reality of Satan; Satan is real. There is no explanation for the presence of evil apart from Satan. The Social and Political Sciences and Philosophers have desperately tried to point to ignorance, or poverty, or government system, or discrimination or lack of tolerance as the explanation for the presence of evil.

They have been convincing in that only 43 % of Americans now believe in the existence of Satan. We could spend the entire morning revealing the flaws in every one of these theories. There is no credible explanation of evil in the human heart apart from the reality of the Devil. Suffice it for now to say: Jesus knew of the reality of Satan.

**a) He is a thief (Mark 4:15).**

*The thief comes only to steal (John 10:10).*

He steals God's work out of the hearts of people. Mark 4:15: *Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.*

He steals the freedom God desires for us. Luke 13:16: *Then should not this woman... whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free?* Instead of freedom he brings oppression. He desires to make you a slave to sin (Romans 6:6).

He steals our potential. Luke 22:3: *Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus.*

Think of the way that Satan stole all Job had. In the span of days, Satan stole his wealth, his family, his health . . . everything but Job's hope . . . that was secure because his hope was in God and Satan is unable to touch God.

He desires to steal your purity, your power, your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control. He desires to pick off the fruit of the Spirit; picking fruit that he has no business picking – sound familiar? Check out Genesis 3 – he has been busy picking fruit that was not his to pick, from the beginning of time.

**b) He is a murderer (John 8:44).**

*The thief comes only to steal and kill (John 10:10).*

Not only does he seek to steal from you . . . he is not satisfied with leaving you empty . . . he wants to kill you.

Jesus said: *He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him.* Satan's lying and murdering are closely connected. Whenever a person lies . . . they assassinate the truth and the character of others.

**c) He is a destroyer (1 Peter 5:8).**

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy (John 10:10).*

*Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

He is not satisfied with killing, murdering the body . . . his intent is to destroy your soul, to blot your name out of the book of life, and have you thrown with *the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral [don't believe what many politicians are saying today . . . that sexual immorality doesn't matter], those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars [don't believe what many are saying today . . . that lying doesn't matter] . . . in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death (Rev. 21:8).*

Paul Harvey advocated carrying a pack of matches in your pocket at all times. When tempted to sin one could pull out the pack and light the match, then put it out with one's fingers in order to be reminded that sin burns.

Satan is an imposing reality from the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of the Old Testament (Genesis 3) to the 3<sup>rd</sup> to last chapter of the New Testament (Revelation 20).

The first step in Deliverance from the Devil is THE REALITY PRINCIPAL. Friend, if Satan can convince you that he does not exist then he has won the ultimate victory and he will be free to carry out his sinister plans to steal, kill and destroy your life.

Given the reality of Satan, the next principle is the . . .

## **2. The recognition principle (2 Corinthians 11:14-15):**

*Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness.*

In the last few months I've noticed that a market has started in stores for used golf balls. They package them up, put all the same brands together and call them "experienced golf balls." I guess they sell better when you put a fancy title on them.

There is a lot of that going on in our society today. A re-packaging and marketing of sin. We call it *alternative lifestyles, creative accounting, consenting adults, fetal tissue, private lives*. It is very easy for sin to creep into our lives under these more acceptable names . . . recognize it as sin.

*You can call a skunk a two-tone pussy cat with fluid drive . . .  
but it is still a skunk.*

*You can call sin by any number of enlightened, tolerant sounding names . . .  
but it is still sin.*

Once we recognize the work of Satan in our lives we must move on to the . . .

### 3. The removal principle (Genesis 4:7):

Way back in Genesis 4, God made it very clear to Cain . . . sin must be removed from our lives: ***But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it (Genesis 4:7).***

You can't just have sin in your life . . . if you have sin in your life . . . Sin has you!

Week after week, a man stood up to pray at his church's prayer meeting. Typically, he closed his prayer with the phrase, "Clean all the cobwebs out of my life." After listening to this man's continual request, the night came what a friend blurted out at the end of the prayer . . . "Lord, kill the spider instead!"

We must pray for the removal of the sinful nature because it is the sinful nature that leads to allowing sin in our lives and once sin enters in . . . it leads to possession of us.

Galatians 5:24: ***Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.***

Romans 6:13b: ***offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law [which was powerless to remove the sinful nature], but under grace [that has the power to transform a life from a slave to sin to a "slavery to righteousness leading to holiness" (Romans 6:19)].***

The removal principal will lead to . . .

### 4. The resolve principal (1 John 2:1, 5b-6):

***My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin*** [it doesn't say you 'cannot sin', but he gives us the grace so 'you will not sin'] . . . ***This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.***

How did Jesus walk? He ***was tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may...find grace to help us in our time of need (Hebrews 4:15-16).***

Anyone who makes this their resolve very quickly needs to move to the next principle for deliverance from evil . . .

### 5. The reliance principle (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24):

***May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.***

*Ezekiel 36:25-27: I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities.... I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.*

Reliance on God's sanctifying work, the giving us of a new Spirit that moves us to follow his ways will lead to . . .

#### **6. The resistance principle (James 4:7):**

The Christian is outright disobedient if he or she passively entertains Satan or his influence. James counsels three steps in resistance, **1. Submit yourselves therefore to God. 2. Resist the devil, and 3. He will flee from you (James 4:7).** Until God does his sanctifying work and gives you a heart for Him and replaces the sinful nature with His Spirit, you cannot submit yourself to God, and . . . you will not be consistent in your resistance to the devil . . . you will open the door. As a Spirit-filled, sanctified, set-apart, and Spirit-controlled believer you will as Peter says: *resist steadfast in the faith (1 Peter 5:9).*

Our desire for resistance will lead to the final principal . . .

#### **7. The readiness principle (Mark 14:38; Ephesians 6:11):**

The Boys Scouts have the motto, "Be prepared." That principle should be the watchword of the tempted Christian. Jesus said, *Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation (Mark 14:38).* Paul advised the Ephesians about what our responsibility is: *Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil (Eph. 6:11).*

#### **APPLICATION:**

When you pray "Deliver us from the evil," each day, you make a faith decision to allow God to protect you from the evil one. God has the power to defend you. The psalmist had this confidence: *The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: . . . The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in (Psalm 121:7,8).*

Go back over the principles . . . one is built on the next . . . you cannot effectively just skip one and go to the next. They are principles that must be accepted by faith. Only then can they be acted upon by faith. Is the Lord speaking to you about any area today? *Psalms 139:23-24: Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.*

"I Surrender All"