

FA24. Praying for Protection from Temptation.

We to pray for protection from temptation.

This precept is derived from His Word (blessed is He):

Key New Testament Scriptures

Matthew 6:13

And do not lead us into hard testing, [“temptation” in NKJ] but keep us safe from the Evil One. For kingship, power and glory are yours forever. Amen.

Mark 14:38

Stay awake, and pray that you will not be put to the test [“enter into temptation” in NKJ] - the spirit indeed is eager, but human nature is weak.

Luke 11:4

Forgive us our sins, for we too forgive everyone who has wronged us. And do not lead us to hard testing [“temptation” in NKJ].

Additional New Testament Scriptures

None

Related New Testament Mitzvot

GA02 Seeking Forgiveness of Sins in Yeshua

Supportive Tanakh Scriptures

None

Comment

In the NKJ (and similarly in other favored translations) Matthew 6:13 reads

“And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

The commonly assumed incorrect inference of these translations is that God (for whatever his reasons) sometimes tempts us to sin, and we must therefore pray that He does not. But James 1:13 tells us that God does not tempt us:

“No one being tempted should say, “I am being tempted by God.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, and God himself tempts no one.”

That is why the CJB's translation of Matthew 6:13 substitutes the words "hard testing" for "temptation" and reads instead:

*"And do not lead us into hard testing, but keep us safe from the Evil One. *For kingship, power and glory are yours forever. Amen."*

Some might say that they are the same, but they are not. Satan wants us to sin, and God does not. Still, on occasion (e.g. in the case of Job) God removes his protection from us to see what we will do with the free will he has given us. Will we do as Adam did and acquiesce to the temptations of Satan, or have we come to the place of where God wants us to be – rejecting all things that are not godly? Often, we do not know the extent of our own weaknesses and how we will respond to the temptations of Satan until we are faced with them. That is the reason that God, in his mercy, protects us even during times He exposes us to hard testing;

1 Corinthians 10:13: *"No temptation has seized you beyond what people normally experience, and God can be trusted not to allow you to be tempted beyond what you can bear. On the contrary, along with the temptation he will also provide the way out, so that you will be able to endure."*

Why then are we told to pray to God that He not lead us into hard testing? After all, when He does it, it is to assess where we are in our godly obedience. Scripture does not supply the answer, but it is likely because none of us is perfectly disciplined and we are therefore vulnerable to moments of weakness and falling victim to the attacks of Satan. We don't want that to happen; that is why we are told to pray that God not test us.

Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2

M11 Resisting Temptation to Sin

God Protects Us from Satanic Temptations

Matthew 4:10, 26:41

Luke 4:13, 8:13, 22:40, 46

John 17:15

Galatians 1:4, 6:1

1 Timothy 6:9

Hebrews 2:18, 4:15

James 1:12-14

2 Peter 2:9