

Chapter Seven

THE WEAPON JESUS HAS GIVEN US

Dear child of God, we are living in the End Time. Jesus wants every person who has ever called upon his name to make it to heaven. In the final part of this vision, Jesus is showing us how we can be protected from temptations and trials while we are still here on earth.

Choose always to depend on God.

Many Christians depend on their human strength and wisdom to face temptations. They end up succumbing to sin and, after the trials have subsided, losing their faith in God. Jesus was mightily anointed with the power of the Holy Spirit, yet in everything he did, he always depended upon our Father in Heaven. God condemns those who put their trust in human strength and wisdom. He compares them to bushes in the desert which grow in the dry wilderness, on salty ground where nothing else grows. Nothing good ever happens to them. But he blesses those who put their trust in him. They are like trees growing near a stream and sending out roots to the water. They are not afraid when hot weather comes; they just keep on bearing fruits (Jeremiah 17:5-8).

Pray

Despite of his very busy life and the crowds that were constantly following him, Jesus always spared time to talk to our Father in heaven. He always woke up very early before day light found a solitary place and prayed to God (Mark 1:35). He talked to our Father about many things he couldn't handle on his own and he interceded a lot both for the lost souls and for those who had accepted the good News of God's kingdom. God has provided everything but we can only receive his blessings by going to him in faith through prayer. Prayer gives us access to God's presence where we can live in unbroken fellowship with him, and where all our needs are met. As we draw near God in prayer, he also draws closer to us.

Jesus sees everything going on in heaven. He saw Satan pleading to God that he is granted permission to severely tempt the disciples. The moment Jesus saw that Satan had been given that authority; he did one thing of great importance. He said,

'But I have prayed for you' Luke 22: 32.

Jesus pleaded to God, in intercessory prayer, that Simon is not severely tempted. He called upon our Father requesting him to help the disciples maintain their faith. He prayed that they don't lose their faith as they were being tempted. Prayer changed the fate of Peter and all the disciples. If Jesus had not prayed, these saints, especially Simon Peter, would have been severely tempted and many would have lost their faith in Jesus.

All this implies there is great power in prayer. There is so much power that many times when we pray, God may even change the decisions he has already made in his mind. God had decided in his mind to destroy the children of Israel because of their rebellion. But when Moses prayed, God listened and changed his intentions (Exodus 32: 7-14).

Here is the weapon Jesus has given us.

Now we come to the most important part of this message. Many Christians pray but they don't know how. As a result they are constantly struggling with temptations in their lives. The disciples of Jesus faced the same problem until they realized that Jesus was always victorious over sin. They knew that his prayers are most effective, since he knows the nature of our heavenly Father best. So one day they asked him to teach them how to pray. Jesus gave them a very simple prayer, yet a very powerful weapon against Satan's accusations. We have already seen in Matthew 4:1 that God led Jesus to the devil to be tempted. We have also seen that God may do the same to present day Christians. God may lead believers to the devil to be tempted. Therefore, in response to their request Jesus directed his disciples always to pray to their Father in heaven that he does not lead them into situations of temptations. He directed his disciples **always to pray to our Father in heaven as follows.**

....AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION *Luke 11:4 NIV*

[This was the seventh and last Scripture the Lord presented in this vision]

No one in the whole heavens and earth knows the nature of God our Father better than our Lord Jesus Christ. When Jesus tells us that that small prayer can protect us from the powers of Satan, let us believe him. By asking God the Father not to lead you into temptation you are saying:

1. My father do not listen to Satan's accusations against me.
2. Do not give the devil permission to tempt me.
3. Do not lead me to the devil to be tempted.

God is merciful. He will listen to you. Satan will be denied permission to tempt you. This is the key to avoiding temptations and trials in your life. Let all Christians always pray to our Father in heaven that he does not lead them to the devil to be tempted. Since Satan continually accuses believers before God, let us also continually plead to our Father that he does not lead us into situations of temptation. Let all Christians realize that throughout his ministry on earth, our God the Father led Jesus to the devil to be tempted only once – soon after his baptism. After overcoming all these temptations, Jesus always, every night, prayed to our Father not to lead him again to the devil to be tempted. Our Father always heard his prayer. He never led Jesus again to the devil to be tempted. Learning from Jesus' experience, let us remain assured that there is great power in those few words Jesus instructed us to pray. Many believers have forgotten the Lord's Prayer not knowing it is the foundation for all other prayers. There is great power in the Lord's Prayer. The power that helps you to overcome Satan.

You may have your own arguments against Jesus instructions to us regarding prayer. If you feel you cannot ask God not to lead you into temptation then be prepared to face all kinds of seductions and trials. And when they come to you know that you will face them with your own abilities because you would have already denied God's help.

When he was about to be crucified, Jesus highlighted the need for our continued praying that the Father does not lead us into temptation. The disciples were in a state of worry, sorrow and anxiety. Each may have had a long list of prayer items. Today you may be exhausted by sickness, financial burdens, sorrow, broken relationships, death of a loved one, enemies, and many needs. Despite of all their troubles Jesus told his disciples to forget about everything else and concentrate on one prayer item: Praying that they are not tempted. Jesus went out as usual to the mountain of Olives and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place he said to them,

Pray that you will not fall into temptation

Luke 22:39-40

After a short time, Jesus repeated exactly the same instruction. Again he told his disciples to overlook all their other prayer needs. He knew that something superior happens when we plead to our Father not to lead us into temptation.

When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation" Luke 22:45-46

The disciples overlooked Jesus' command and they continued sleeping. Because Satan was against God's will for the Son of God to redeem this world by his own blood, he made Simon and others continue enjoying their sleep. Consequently, in a few hours, Satan started sifting Peter. He was tempted to cut off the ear of one of those who had come to arrest Jesus. This was a real temptation. It was against God's will. That's why Jesus rebuked Simon and he replaced the cut ear (John 18:11).

Do you know that Satan may succeed in seeking permission from God to tempt you in your relationships, your finances, your health, your job, your ministry, and even the very life within you? You may be earnestly seeking something from God. Satan may secure permission to hinder its provision and if you are not firm, you may lose your faith and go back into the world.

Many Christians are struggling with sin in their lives not knowing that there is a way of preventing it well before it takes place. Pray to God daily that you are not led into temptation. It will be very easy for you to detect the traps Satan has laid before you. You will escape them and glory will go to God.

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