

Day Twelve

"Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.' -Matthew 6:9-13

but deliver us from evil.

This petition comes on the heels of leading us from temptation and should not be thought of as separate from it. For, in keeping us from temptation we are rescued from evil. Paul's letter to Timothy gives assurance to this fact. *But the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me, in order that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was delivered out of the lion's mouth. The Lord will deliver me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen. -2 Timothy 4:17-18*

The word "deliver" in 2 Timothy 4 is the same Greek word used by Matthew in our passage for today. It means to rescue and is as if saved from a current of water. The idea is more than that of ferrying or taxiing, as it were. It is the deliverance from danger or death. Peter uses this term in his letter to describe how we are kept safe as was Lot, *then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment, -2 Peter 2:9.*

John writes in his first letter about those who had overcome the evil one. *I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one. -1 John 2:14.* Many think this is the sense that is meant in the prayer. "Deliver us from the evil one", for so it appears in some ancient manuscripts. How did they overcome the evil one? Perhaps the answer is found within John's text; "The Word of God abides in you".

Solomon relates what we often see in young men: *The glory of young men is their strength, And the honor of old men is their gray hair. -*

Proverbs 20:29. But, is this what John alludes to here? Is the young men's strength a physical attribute? Hardly, for Paul relates: *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. -Ephesians 6:12.* So, the strength that John is impressed by is that which they have secured from the Word of God, that two-edged sword.

In Christ we have been given the power to overcome, to be victors and conquerors. *You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. -1 John 4:4.* And again concerning us as conquerors; *But in all these things we more than conquer through Him who loved us. -Romans 8:37*

Now, how are we to conquer evil? Paul gives us great insight in his letter to the Romans; *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. -Romans 12:21.* It is a great encouragement to know that we indeed can conquer evil in this present age. Paul tells us to stand, not retreat with the armor of God. We need not go looking for a fight with satan, but when it comes we are equipped to battle evil with the full panoply of God at our disposal. He WILL deliver us. It was Christ's desire that we should have the power to overcome evil. *I do not pray for You to take them out of the world, but for You to keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through Your truth. Your Word is truth. -John 17:15-17*

Prayerful Ponderings: Our Father, You indeed have rescued us from evil and have made us conquerors. Continue to guide us.