

Prayer and Fasting – Wednesday 18th August 2010

Lead us not into temptation

Matthew 6:13a

In Luke 22:40 it says *On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation."* (NIV)

We know that our Lord will never tempt us with evil for there is no evil in Him whatsoever. James puts the point across very plainly in James 1:13-14, concluding that each person is tempted because of their own evil desires. Our sinful nature craves after the things this world offers us and Satan oppresses us, but never our Father. He looks for the good in us. He test and chastises us at times but only so that we can achieve better - the end result is always beneficial.

Nevertheless, each one of us live in an evil environment and our daily prayer should be that the Lord lead us away from evil things.

There is another aspect to these words which Jesus wants us to pattern in our prayers, and it is that we ask Him to save and protect us when evil people, regimes and systems arise to persecute us even to the point of taking our lives. In Luke 22 where Jesus tells His disciples to *"pray that they don't fall into temptation,"* He Himself was experiencing His greatest challenge as a man. You can sense the darkness of the situation, knowing what He knew, and knowing that His disciples were going to face opposition and troubles - howbeit, not without His Spiritual presence - but severe troubles nonetheless. They and we are encouraged to be aware of the coming of evil, still we know that we can bring every situation to our Lord in prayer.

Selah

"Christian Faith" can be dangerous when it is a subjective faith. What I mean by this is we can attain faith by what the bible says, but then add to faith beliefs which are based on our feelings or from a distorted appreciation of Biblical teaching. A person can have strong faith - but wrong faith.

When it comes to the last days, Christians tend to believe that they will somehow be immune to the troublesome days. Is this what you believe? Do you think that your future is going to be comfortable and if so why do you think that? What does Jesus teach us regarding the end times and how should we approach it?

Prayer points

- Pray, pray, pray for our brothers and sisters who are undergoing persecution for their Christian faith
- Pray for yourself as you stand up for Christ that He will lead you away from temptation and evil and that He might protect you. Pray that the Lord give you wisdom and a passion for sharing the gospel with others
- Pray for our country, evil days are at hand. Let us pray that the influence of God will not be overcome by the devil.
- Pray for the church.