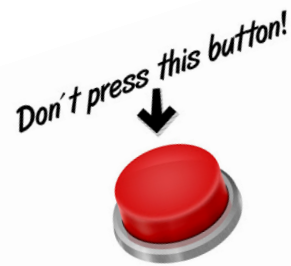




The HOLY FROG

Honour Others, Lower Yourself and Fully Rely On God. Blog



Are you Tempted?

I had tried to ignore the temptation. Honest!

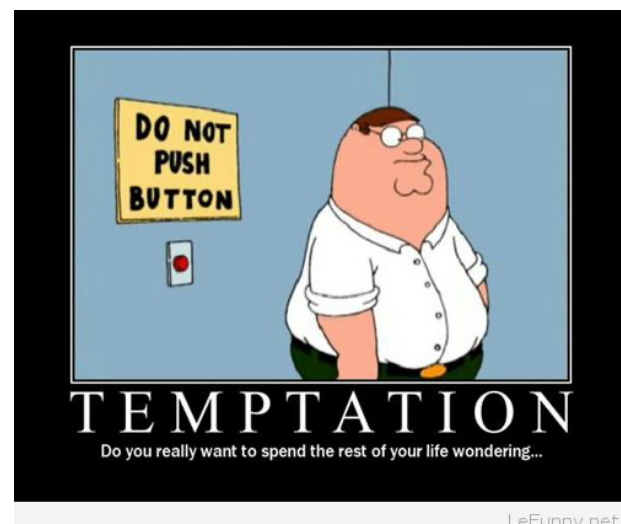
I wasn't sure I would be able to get away with it in broad daylight! The benefits were obvious but were they worth the risk? I had thought about the idea, plotted a way to do it and now I found myself at the point of no return. Once I was committed to the deed though, there was no going back! So there I stood in the queue. In front of me an old lady who had been getting cash out of her handbag stepped up to the counter, when a £10 note fell to the ground behind her. "Interesting!" I'd thought. The lady hadn't noticed it. "Very interesting!" whispered a little voice in my head, "You could have that money and no-one would know, just put your foot on it, crouch down to tie your shoelace and put it in your pocket." It was very tempting. In that instant, **I realised I had a choice to make** - snatch the money or give it back to its rightful owner. Well, what would you do?



Every moment of the day we face choices like this and **wrestle with that voice** inside our head that tells us right from wrong. Should we wear, uniform or not? Speak to people politely, or not? Eat a couple of biscuits or the whole packet? Click on the internet link or delete it? Borrow something or just take it? In these moments of choice, **we will be tempted to act against our better judgement** even though we know our deeds may hurt us or others. Jesus knew only too well about these moments of decision and the spiritual battle that could impact both the physical and spiritual well being of his disciples, which is why he taught them to **take time to talk to God about temptations and challenges we all face!**

"When you pray to Our Father in Heaven" said Jesus, **"ask that he lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil."** [Matthew 6:13](#). Obviously, Jesus was concerned to point out to his disciples that they needed to **seek God's help in times of temptation** because whatever we think may be the cause of temptation, wrong thoughts, desire and actions, Jesus clearly understood, that behind it all, is one who seeks to destroy the good that God has given - the devil. Jesus was in no doubt that, whilst God offered humankind forgiveness, restoration, and truth, the devil sought to deceive and destroy any possibility of such a relationship between God and his people.

Jesus taught **there is an enemy of God and humanity** that needs to be known. Jesus identified this enemy as 'Satan' (Mark4:15) 'the evil one' or 'the devil' (Matthew 13:38-39) Jesus warned his disciples to **"... fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell."** (Matthew 10:28) and here, in the Lord's Prayer, we see the seriousness with which **Jesus prays for spiritual protection** against the devil and his works. Besides the Lord's prayer John records Jesus praying **"I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one."** **"Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."** [John 17:15](#)





Therefore, we cannot simply dismiss the reality or the intent of the devil, since that is how Jesus Himself taught his disciples to understand things. Peter later warned believers to **Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.** (1 Peter 5:8) In that moment of decision!

Jesus, therefore, insists to his disciples that as they meet with God in daily prayer, they are to **ask that He guides them away from temptation** and in those moments when evil surrounds them, helps get them through the experience. As we pray too, we are encouraged to hold onto God's power and strength to resist temptation as we stand firm in our desire to follow His ways.



HOW DOES GOD HELP? Jesus prays (John 17) that believers will be 'sanctified' (set apart) and held in truth by following God's Word. Scripture strengthens our faith and gives us a powerful defence against temptation. Jesus Himself quoted scripture in the Wilderness as a reminder that **God's truth, opposes the devil's lies**, and after three attempts to lure Jesus into making the wrong choices, the devil left him.

When the disciples asked Jesus **"Lord teach us to Pray"** I wonder if they realised exactly, what they had asked? Only as we **live life:live faith** can we come to understand the depth and purpose behind Jesus' response. If we pray using the Lord's Prayer, serving God's kingdom, being willing to trust Him for daily provision, humbly asking for forgiveness as we forgive others, keeping alert in temptation and persevering through tough trials, what a difference we would know in life! **So, Are you tempted..?**

P.S. For those of you still wondering about the £10. I gave it back. "Who knows" piped up that voice once again, "Maybe you'll win the lottery, as a reward for your honesty!?"

Chaplain's Challenge:

1. Make a collage or stage a film scene that depicts the battle of good and evil - send a photo into Joe of the result.*
2. What kind of things would YOU list as temptations?
3. What does the "Martin Luther" quote about birds mean do you think?
4. Read the Gospel account of Jesus in the Wilderness noting the scriptures he quotes. (Matthew 4:1-11)
5. Are there any scriptures that inspire you when in difficult times? Share them with others*
6. Write your own version of The Lord's Prayer using the structure Jesus gave to us and share it with HoY for the next worship.



Reflect:

"God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

PRAYER: Dear Father, I am constantly distracted by things that lead me away from you so help me remember the promises of your Word. Please keep me from giving in to temptation. Help me keep my thoughts from straying, my eyes from seeing what they shouldn't and give me wisdom and courage to make right choices today. **Amen**



Send in your photos, stories of Christian faith in action, your prayer requests and anything else to

* **Joe the Chaplain** - jmaggs@speters.org.uk

Holy Frog Productions: **bringing the relevance of faith to the reality of life!**