

# Sermon – Relentless Temptation

Pastor Ed Blonski | March 1, 2023



**Sermon:**

**Relentless  
Temptation**

**Matthew 4:1**

Each morning, many Lutherans, myself included, pray this prayer:

*I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that you would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hand I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.*

And this is a good prayer.

It is about 500 years old and is based on the prayers of the followers of Jesus from the very beginning of the Church.

It is a prayer of faith.

It is how a Christian asks God for help and guidance - especially against temptation - throughout the day.

But you know what it also is?

It is a challenge to the devil!

When we pray this prayer – or something very much like it – Satan says,

“Oh yeah! Well, you aren’t going to know what hit you!”

And the devil sends temptation after temptation to you throughout the day!

It is relentless!

“But I thought when I became a Christian, all this temptation and sin stuff would just ... I don’t know ... go away!”

Not hardly!

In fact, many times it just gets worse!

Think about it.

Not even Christ was immune to temptation!

When Christ was vulnerable – during a 40 day fast, hungry, thirsty, tired, alone – Satan comes after him not with one, not with two, but with three temptations.

Satan tempts Jesus with food (he was hungry, after all).

Satan tempts him with doubt, trying to get Jesus to question whether he really was the Son of God.

Satan tempts him with power. To try to get Jesus to short-cut the plan of salvation, skip the redemption part, and go straight to the “king of kings and lord of lords” part.

If Satan goes after Jesus like this, don’t be surprised when he goes after you like this.

Satan will be relentless in his temptation of you through hunger, through doubt, through promises (false ones) of power.

Relentless!

So what’s a follower of Jesus to do?

First, put yourself in Jesus’ hands. Grab hold of Jesus through faith and don’t let go!

Jesus overcame temptation and so can you, with Jesus!

Through your faith in Christ you can overcome all temptation.

That doesn’t mean you will but you certainly can.

And when you don't, remember this: Jesus died on the cross to forgive all your sins!  
You are forgiven. You are saved!

And one more thing that may encourage you about temptation. God's promise to you:

*No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13*

And here's a prayer to pray, in addition to the Morning Prayer:

*Almighty and everlasting God, through Your Son You have promised us forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. Govern our hearts by Your Holy Spirit that in our daily need, and especially in all time of temptation, we may seek Your help and, by a true and lively faith in Your Word, obtain all that You have promised; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.*