

## Episode 023

# Praying for protection (Being Prayerful Series)

## Introduction

Matthew 6:13 (NIV) "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

None of us, no matter how seasoned we are as prayer warriors and intercessors, are exempt from temptation. Temptation can come in the form of our fleshly weaknesses, the spirit of worldliness influencing us, or through the enticement of the enemy, Satan.

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

Matthew 26:41 (NIV) "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

We thank God for Jesus, who, despite being tempted, did not succumb to sin. He understands what it is like for us to be tempted. Therefore, we can rely on Him to help us overcome.

Hebrews 4:15-16 (NIV) "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

We are vulnerable and can be open to temptation and spiritual attacks. However, we can also be assured that with each temptation or trial comes an opportunity to grow and find grace in God to overcome.

### Steps to Protection from God

#### 1. Don't give in when tempted.

Sin comes from yielding to temptation. Learn to cut short the thoughts that bombard us daily. Don't let temptation gain control and affect your thoughts and actions.



## 2. Pray it through because temptations are potentially dangerous.

Persist in prayer until the breakthrough occurs. We need Jesus' help to resist the temptation to quit, and prayer is an essential key.

James 1:12 (NIV) "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him."

God's power is available to us if we seek His face to keep us from falling into the enemy's schemes. His Word says He will provide a way out. We must fight not with our own strength but by the strength of Christ in us.

## 3. God's promises of protection do not fail.

Praying for God's protection is also a great avenue to intercede for our families, friends, church leaders, government, and missionaries.

For example: Missionaries face countless challenges on the mission field while sharing the Gospel.

1 John 2:16 (NIV) "For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes, and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world."

The three main areas of temptation are:

- \* Covetousness/Greed (cravings of sinful man)
- \* Lust (of the eyes)
- \* Pride (boasting of what one has and does)

We should pray for the godly opposites in our lives:

- \* Generosity instead of greed
- \* Purity instead of lust
- \* Humility instead of pride

Intercede for others and their protection.

Psalms 91 reminds us of God's promise to protect us, and His promises never fail.

The Beauty of Voluntary Accountability

Proverbs 11:14 (KJV) "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety."



## Discussion Questions

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These questions could be done personally or as part of a group discussion.

1. What is an aspect of temptation that you consistently face?
2. What steps are you taking to overcome that temptation? Have you considered seeking help from those who care for you?





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[www.hope-church.com.au](http://www.hope-church.com.au)

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