

Mary Craig

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Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

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We pray it all the time: “Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” When we do this, we are asking our Heavenly Father not to start tempting us. He hasn’t done it in the past; please, don’t start doing it now. James 1.13, 14 says,

*Let no one say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God:
 for God cannot be tempted with evil,
 neither tempts He any man:
 but every man is tempted when he is drawn
 away of his own lust, and enticed.*

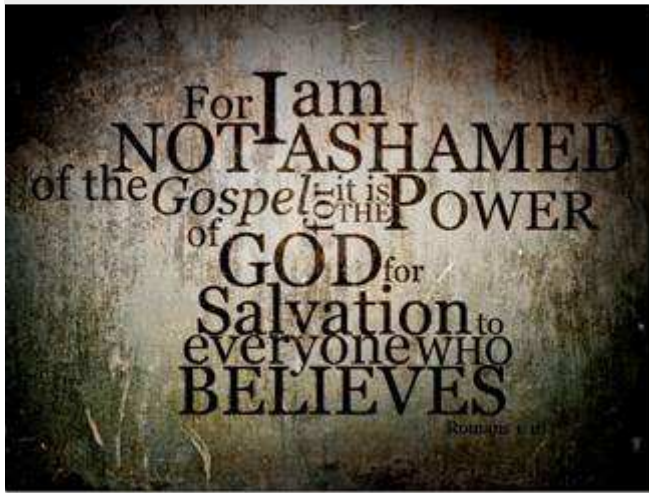


Danger! Deliver us from evil [literally, the evil one].

When we pray for deliverance, when we pray for a deliverer, we are praying to be rescued from danger. Anything that opposes the Living God is a danger to life. Sin is an enemy of God and therefore dangerous for us; we need deliverance. We need to be sanctified, set apart from all that endangers us as to our body, soul, spirit, and life.

To deliver is also to hand over. We need to be handed over from sin, self, Satan, and the world’s system to the Living God. Thus are we loosed. Paul writes, “O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank

God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 7.24, 25a)



The truth sets us free. God is a God of truth and without iniquity. (Deut.32.4) Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but by Him. (John 14.6) The Spirit is truth. (1 John 5.6)

This is He that came by water and blood,
Even Jesus Christ;
Not by water only, but by water and blood.
And it is the Spirit that bears witness,
Because the Spirit is truth.

We live in dangerous times. The Holy Spirit has commanded me to “pray for a deliverer.”

In 2 Thessalonians chapter two Paul speaks of the Day of the Lord “at hand.” He exhorts believers not to be deceived by any means for that day does not come except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition. This son of perdition, this man of sin, opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped; so that he as god sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is god. Iniquity is already at work, Paul says.

It is the Holy Spirit who restrains evil in this world, restricting the spirit of antichrist. Thus the Holy Spirit permits and will permit iniquity to go on for a time. But then that Wicked will be revealed and the Lord will consume that Wicked with the spirit or breath of His mouth and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming; even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders and with all the deception of unrighteousness in them that perish. And why? “Because they received not the love of the truth that they might be saved.” (2 Thessalonians 2.10)

For this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Paul goes on to give thanks for the brethren beloved of the Lord, because, he says, “God has from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: whereunto He called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (2 Thessalonians 2.13, 14)

Satan will have his day. Wickedness will have its day...in our personal lives and in the life of

families, cities, nations, etc. It is limited by the restraining power of the Holy Spirit. At some point, Jesus will show up, shine forth, shoot down His enemies, and strengthen our faith. He will deliver us from evil.

We need to see the dangers and things that oppose the Living God, things which are the enemies of God. We need to pray to be lovers of the truth, to receive the love of the truth.

Many go around and want love. One church in our area used to say, "Come in here and let us love on you." After awhile, however, it became more and more obvious that finding the truth of the Word of God was not too important to them, only the fuzzy warm feelings of fellowship, food, and comfortable surroundings. Even the music was noncommittal and fuzzy. All of it fed the flesh, though a smattering of scripture made everything palatable.

We need to watch, pray, be ready, and identify the enemies of Christ and His Gospel. In 2 Thessalonians 3.2,3 Paul exhorts the brethren to pray.

*Pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have
Free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:
And that we may be delivered from unreasonable men:
For all have not faith.
But the Lord is faithful, who shall establish you,
And keep you from evil.*



God gives deliverance (Psalm 44.4), often through a human agent. He gave victory in battles, delivered from famines, released prisoners, took away Israel's sin. Job 5.19-26 tells us that God delivers in seven ways: from famine, war, the scourge of the tongue, the wild animals, to safety, abundant offspring, and long life. Scripture also speaks of deliverance from sin, from the way and power of evil, from death, from the law, and from the coming wrath of God. God is the Deliverer. Jesus Christ delivers through the sacrifice of Himself for sins. (Galatians 1.4)

*I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under
The burdens of the Egyptians, and I will*

*Deliver you from slavery to them, and
I will redeem you with an outstretched arm
And with great acts of judgment. (Exodus 6.6)*

It is through judgment that deliverance comes.

*Therefore You delivered them into the hand of their enemies,
Who distressed them: and in the time of their
Trouble, when they cried to You, You heard
From heaven; and according to Your manifold mercies
You gave them deliverers, who saved them
Out of the hand of their enemies. (Nehemiah 9.27)*

Judgment continues until a person or a people, the people of God, humble themselves and pray and seek God's face and turn from their wicked ways. (2 Chronicles 7.14) **Pray for a Deliverer.**

*Deliverers will go up on Mount Zion
To judge the mountains of Esau,
And the kingdom will be Yahweh's.
(Obadiah 1.21)*

...He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit
and fire. His winnowing fork is in His
hand to thoroughly clear His threshing
floor, and to gather the wheat into His
barn; but He will burn up the chaff with
unquenchable fire.

Luke 3:16-17 NASB



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