

SAYINGS OF THE FATHERS

STAYING CLOSE TO GOD

Pray simply, like a child, and God will hear your prayer.

Elder Silouan

Be mindful of God, so that in every moment He may be mindful of you. If He is mindful of you, He will give you salvation. Do not forget Him, letting yourselves be seduced by vain distractions. Do you want Him to forget you in your times of temptation? Stay near Him and obey Him in the days of your prosperity. You will be able to rely on His word in difficult days, because prayer will keep you safe in His continual presence. Remain constantly before His face, think of Him, remember Him in your heart. Otherwise, if you only meet Him from time to time, you risk losing your close friendship with Him.

St. Isaac of Nineveh, 7th century

Truly great and mighty is the power of God's word. For the word of God has changed "the offspring of vipers" into children of God. So let us constantly sow it within the hard soil of our heart, waiting for it to soften it so that the wheat-ear of life may sprout up in it. For the word of God is at the same time the seed and the water; and even though we have a heart like stone, it will be softened and split up by the water of the Spirit, so that it can bring forth holy fruit that is pleasing to God.

Martyrius, The Book of Perfection, 53: 7th century

Once I asked him, "Father Herman, how can you live on this island, alone in the forest? Do you not get lonely?"

He replied, "No, I am not alone, for God is there, just as He is everywhere, and the Holy Angels are there also. How can I be lonely? With whom is it better and more pleasant to speak -- people or angels? Angels, of course!"

(St Herman of Alaska)

Remember God in everything. Let no one grieve because of you. Never let go an opportunity to do something good. Only those things will remain with you till the end.

Saint Gregorios of Parumala