

A SINCERE & SUPPLICATING VOICE TO GOD
(from the Holy Monastery of Grigoriou, Mt. Athos)

O Lord Jesus Christ, listen to the sincere voice of my heart speaking to Thee: I believe that Thou dost exist; but I do not feel it strongly. I know that Thou dost watch me, Thou dost hear me, Thou dost understand me, as my Creator, in a better way than I know myself; but I do not know Thee as I should.

I hear of Thee from others, I read and learn about Thee; but I do not have a close personal relationship with Thee.

I know good people who are Thy friends and they fear Thee and love Thee, and their life is full of Thee. However, I still doubt because I do not have a deep communion with Thee.

In my daily life, in difficulties, in nature and in the whole creation, I perceive Thy presence; but I do not believe in Thee steadily.

I admit that without Thee – without Thy Grace, Thy Resurrection and Thy Love – life, my life, does not seem to have any meaning; but I continue to live far from Thee, not conforming perfectly to Thy life, to Thy divine commandments, and therefore I still doubt...

Lord, help me to believe in Thee more deeply. Guide me to find Thee, so my soul may rejoice. Teach me to love Thee, so that I may draw up a real joy and meaning in my dull life. Inform my heart about the truth of Thy Holy Gospel, of Thy Resurrection. Enlighten me by the light of Thy real knowledge.

Come, in the way Thou knowest best. Visit me, so I may obtain Thy unique and deep peace. Attract me to Thy love, so I may overcome my selfishness, my egoism, and little by little I may cast away all my passions and weaknesses.

I know, my Lord, that all these will not be achieved at once, neither without patience nor without labor. However, if Thou dost entice me by the sweetness of Thy Grace, all will become easy, desirable and achievable.

If Thou dost come and bless my life, then I will truly enjoy this world and I will have hope for the future as well.

If Thou dost live with me and I with Thee, then I will enjoy the good things in my life, my relationships with people, my family, my profession, my present and future, that without Thee have no meaning and interest.

If Thou dost visit me, then I will be able to return to Thee and live a holy and pure life, like so many saints, who had lived in denial and in sin before. Like Paul, Peter, Photini the Samaritan, Mary of Egypt; like the prodigal son, the thief, like Zachaeus.

If Thou dost visit me and dwell in my soul, then I will struggle not to grieve my brethren and to forgive quickly those who trespass against me. I will do my best not to judge those around me and to apply in my life the holy experience and directive of the Holy Fathers, which is "to be strict with myself but lenient toward others." In general, I will live such a life that will gladden Thee and bring me closer to Thee as well as to my fellow men.

If Thou dost visit me, I will feel the greatness of Thy Faith, of Thy Holy Orthodox Church. I will be able to practice so as to obtain Thy holy virtues, to have self-restraint, to fast, to pray. I will desire to run to Thy Holy Temple, to participate in Thy Holy Sacraments, to repent and confess my sins to Thy priests, in order to worthily receive Thy Precious Body and Blood after a good preparation, according to their spiritual guidance.

However, all these are still lacking in me, O Lord! Forgive me that I still grieve Thee by my life, my deeds, my words, my thoughts.

Help me to rise. Help me to be healed. Help me to be cleansed. Help me to find Thee.

Lord Jesus, enlighten me.

Lord Jesus, bless me.

Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me a sinner!