

## What is faith?

Orthodox Christians live by faith in Christ. This faith is a simple faith. It means that we trust in our Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. To have faith means that we *"trust in the Lord with all our hearts"* and that we *"lean not upon [y]our own understanding."* (Psalm 3:5).

Such faith is absolute and uncompromising. It cannot be divided. We are either "all-in" for Him or we are "all-out." The Lord asks us to fully consecrated to Him - without exception. Why so? For one reason only. Because He alone loves us like no other. He alone knows us better than we know ourselves. He alone can save us from ourselves, from our rampant foolishness.

Faith is simple, yes. But this does not mean it is easy. One does not just confess faith in Christ and be through with it, "once and done." Rather, one must keep on confessing for a whole lifetime, every hour of every day. Every thought must *"be taken captive for obedience to Christ."* (2 Cor. 10:5).

Really, an inner revolution is necessary. Human beings in this world live in a state of constant rebellion against God, on account of pride. So it's not just the need to sweep house every once in a while to gather up the dust. It's not that we need to "smooth out a few rough edges," as many like to say. No, it's that all the forces of hell are fighting inside mind and soul in order to expel the forces of good. And more often than not, we end up aligning ourselves on the wrong side, in direct opposition to the One Who seeks to claim us as His every own. The more someone deepens their faith, the more intense the battle becomes. Our will is the deciding factor in the battle. We either choose the King who made us or the usurper, the tyrant. Only by God's grace can we choose, and keep on choosing - through continual repentance - the light of Christ.

Every day eternity appears before us. But we must fight for it against ourselves, our own willfulness, against temptation and the evil spirits. Every day, that is, we fight the good fight. Or perhaps, better said, we lay down our weapons and surrender to the King so that He can do the fighting for us.

There is no other way.

*"For the Lord Himself will fight for you, you only need to be still."*  
Exodus 14:14.

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