

KNOWLEDGE OF GOD ISSUES FROM KEEPING HIS COMMANDMENTS

—*St. Symeon the New Theologian*—

The commandments give rise to the virtues, and the virtues lead to the revelation of the mysteries that are contained and concealed within the words of Holy Scriptures. By keeping the commandments one actually exercises the virtues, and, simultaneously, by carrying out the virtues one fulfills the commandments. Thus, these open the door of knowledge. Actually, to be more precise, the door is not opened through these, but rather it is opened by Him Who stated, “whoever loves Me will keep My commandments, and My Father shall love him, and I shall reveal Myself to him” (Jn. 14:21). When God comes to dwell and walk within us, and when He reveals Himself tangibly to us, then are we also able to comprehend the hidden divine mysteries located within the treasure chest, that is within the Holy Scriptures. Let no one be fooled. There is no way of unlocking the trove of knowledge and enjoying the treasures found therein, other than by contemplating and executing the commandments and virtues.

Which and what type of treasures are we referring to? Perfect love for God and man, indifference for all visible things, mortification of the evil deeds and desires of the flesh... and concern only for Christ the Savior’s commandments. Furthermore, we are referring to immortality, incorruptibility, eternal glory, everlasting life, the kingdom of heaven, adoption through rebirth by the Holy Spirit, and becoming gods by grace and appointment.