

ADVICE ON THE SPIRITUAL STRUGGLE

—From Saint Porphyrios—

God has placed a certain power within man's soul. It depends on each individual, how he will channel this power: toward virtue or toward evil. If we are to imagine virtue as a garden that is full of flowers, trees, and plants, and evil as weeds, and man's power of soul like water, then the following can take place: When the water is channeled toward the garden, then all the plants thrive, become green, blossom, and flourish. Simultaneously, since no water is being diverted towards the weeds, they wither, shrivel up, and disappear. The opposite can also occur.

Channel your water, that is all the power of your soul, toward the flowers, and you will relish in their beauty, fragrance, and shade. When evil comes to entice you, turn your internal power toward good, toward Christ. Call unto Him: "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me." He knows how to bestow His mercy, He knows how to help you. With Christ, everything is possible.

Without Christ it is impossible to correct ourselves; we will not be able to free ourselves from the passions. We cannot become good and virtuous on our own. "Without Me, you can do nothing" (Jn. 15:5), says the Lord. No matter how much we try, we will accomplish nothing. We must do one thing: We must turn to Christ and love Him with all our soul. Love for Christ: this alone is the best cure for the passions. Turn to Christ! Love Him with simplicity, with humility, without demanding anything, and He Himself will liberate you. As soon as you turn to Christ, He will immediately come to your aid.