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IF YOU SPIRITUALLY FALL, GET UP BY REPENTING

St. Seraphim of Sarov

Question: Can a man who has received grace rise after falling? *Answer:* He can, according to the Psalmist, *I was overturned that I might fall, but the Lord supported me* (Ps. 117:13); for when Nathan the prophet accused David in his sin, the latter repented and immediately received forgiveness (II Kings 12:13).

THE INNER BEHOLDING OF THE ETERNAL LIGHT

St. Seraphim of Sarov

When a man beholds the eternal light interiorly, his mind is pure and has in it no sensory representations, but, being totally immersed in contemplation of *uncreated* (emphasis supplied) goodness, he forgets everything sensory and wishes not even to see himself; he desires rather to hide himself in the heart of the earth, if only he be not deprived of this true good - God.

THE 'WORLD' IS GOD'S ENEMY

St. James the Just of Jerusalem

Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God (James 4:4).

GOOD DEEDS ARE ESSENTIAL

Abbot Nazarius of Valaam

One must know that without good deeds you do not show love toward Him; *for not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified* (Rom. 2:13). And thus, see how good and merciful is the Lord. He gave Christians the law for no other reason than for the destruction of our malice, for a cleansing from sins, and for the conquering of the passions that war against God's law. Therefore, we must not only keep God's commandments, but must also offer gifts in accordance with the commandments: just as the holy Fathers offered, each according to his own strength, one five talents, another ten, another thirty. In the same way we also must prosper in doing good and in love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

SPIRITUALLY DEPART FROM THIS WORLD!

Elder Nazarius of Valaam

Know that the Son of God came down to earth not in order to ruin human souls, but to instruct us in the true path. He, by the example of His life and not by words alone, taught us to despise the world. The Lord had no place of repose in the world, and those who followed Him He commanded to flee it. Beguiling and deceptive is the life of the world, fruitless its labour, perilous its delight, poor its riches, delusive its honours, inconstant, insignificant; and woe to those who hope in its seeming goods: because of this many die without repentance. Blessed and most blessed are those who depart the world and its desires.

FLEE FROM THE SHEPHERD HERETIC!

St. Photios the Great

Is the shepherd a heretic? Then he is a wolf! You must flee from him: do not be deceived to approach him even if he appears gentle and tame. Flee from communion and conversation with him even as you would flee from a poisonous snake.

AN ECUMENICAL COUNCIL SIMPLY CONFIRMS THE SPIRITUAL DEATH,
LOSS OF GRACE OF A PERSON

Dr. Alexandre Kalomiros

However, it is not a Council that removes grace. God does not take orders from men. The Council simply confirms that grace has departed, and it proclaims this fact through its decree.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE SOMETIMES PREFERABLE TO PEACE

St. Gregory the Theologian

Better is a praiseworthy war than a peace that separates us from God.

THE HERETIC IS SPIRITUALLY DEAD *BEFORE* ANY ORTHODOX COUNCIL

Dr. Alexandre Kalomios

The separation of a heretic from the Church, therefore, has no relation with the decisions of a council of the hierarchy. The Orthodox Council is the surgeon

which amputates the rotten member from the Body of the Church. It is *not* (emphasis supplied) the Council, however, that put the member to death. The member was dead before the Council decided to excise it.