

St. Symeon the New Theologian: Every Christian Must Receive a Divine Change



St. Symeon the New Theologian Abbott, Monastery of St. Mammias in Constantinople, (AD 949 - AD 1022). One of 3 orthodox saints canonized as “theologian” (the others being St. John the Apostle and St. Gregory of Nazianzus)

St. Symeon the New Theologian (AD 949 - AD 1022)

It is a great good thing to believe in Christ, because without faith in Christ it is impossible for anyone to be saved; but one must also be instructed in the word of truth and understand it. It is a good thing to be instructed in the word of truth, and to understand it is essential; but one must also receive Baptism in the name of the Holy and Live-giving Trinity, for the bringing to life of the soul. It is a good thing to receive Baptism and through it a new spiritual life; but it is necessary that this mystical life, or this

mental enlightenment in the spirit, also should be consciously felt. It is a good thing to receive with feeling the mental enlightenment in the spirit; but one must manifest also the works of light. It is a good thing to do the works of light; but one must also be clothed in the humility and meekness of Christ for a perfect likeness to Christ. He who attains this and becomes meek and humble of heart, as if these were his natural disposition, will unfailingly enter into the Kingdom of Heaven and into the joy of His Lord.

Moreover, regarding all those who are running on the paths of God according to the order I have indicated, if it happens that natural death should cut off their course in the midst of this, they will not be banished from the doors of the Kingdom of God, and these doors will not be closed before them, according to the limitless mercy of God. But regarding those who do not run in such a way, their faith also in Christ the Lord is vain, if they have such. To Him may there be ever glory, honor, and worship, with His Unoriginate Father and the Life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

[From: Homily 37: The Ancestral Sin and Our Regeneration. “7. Every Christin Must Receive a Divine Change,” in **The First Created Man**, St. Symeon the New Theologian, St. Herman of Alaska Press, Platina, CA 1979, pp. 76-77.]