

THE ORTHODOX WEEKLY BULETIN VESTAL, CLIFFWOOD, NEW JERSEY

TURN AWAY FROM SIN

The Bible portrays humanity as wayward and wandering sheep. Usually the reason we go astray is we are tempted by SIN. Jesus came to save us and died on the Cross to defeat the ultimate enemies - - sin and death.

We think as humans we can flirt with temptations. Satan dangles temptation right in front of us. We think we can get very close to the edge and walk away. We know the action is wrong and yet we toy with it. But Satan's power ends there. He cannot force us into temptation. His power stops at the edge of our will, when we make the right decision with the help of our Lord. Jesus puts it simply:

“Whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.” (John 8:34)

Having experienced great temptation himself, Apostle Peter wrote later in life, **“Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion . . . Resist him, standing firm in the faith . . .” (1 Peter 5: 8-9)**. We must always be alert for attacks at every turn. God gives us the strength and wisdom to recognize when we are tempted. Rely on Him for strength to resist. Respond to the lies of Satan with the truth of God's Word.

Remember that a big fall starts with a little stumble. Wayward sheep need the guidance of the Shepherd to seek and to save us. We can, with God's love and support, successfully resist Satan and his most enticing tactics!