

**L**ET US WHO ARE WEAK and passionate have the courage to offer our infirmity and natural weakness to Christ with unhesitating faith, and confess it to Him; and we shall be certain to obtain His help, even beyond our worth, if only we continually plunge to the depth of humility.

*The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, St. John Climacus, Step 1.8

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**B**LESSED IS THE MAN who knows his own weakness, because this knowledge becomes to him the foundation, root, and beginning of all goodness. For whenever a man learns and truly perceives his own weakness, at that moment he contracts his soul on every side from the laxity that dims knowledge, and he treasures up watchfulness in himself. But no one can perceive his own infirmity if he is not allowed to be tempted a little, either by things that oppress his body, or his soul. For then, comparing his own weakness with God's help, he will straightway understand the greatness of the latter.

*The Ascetical Homilies of Saint Isaac the Syrian*, Homily 8, p. 185

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**A**BROTHER ASKED Abba Agatho concerning [*warfare from thoughts of*] fornication, and he said to him, "Go, cast thy feebleness before God, and thou shalt find relief."

*Paradise of the Holy Fathers*, tr. Budge, Vol. II, p. 129, #573

PEARLS FROM THE HOLY FATHERS

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