

THE CHIEF THING IN PRAYER for which we must care above all is lively, clear-sighted faith in the Lord: represent Him vividly before yourself and within you – then ask of Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit whatever you desire and you will obtain it. Ask simply, without the slightest doubt – then your God will be everything to you, accomplishing in an instant great and wonderful acts, as the sign of the cross accomplishes great wonders. Ask for both spiritual and material blessings not only for yourself, but for all believers, for the whole body of the Church, not separating yourself from other believers, but in spiritual union with them, as a member of the one great body of the Church of Christ, and loving all, as your brethren or children in Christ, as the case may be. The heavenly Father will fill you with great peace and boldness.

St John of Kronstadt, *My Life in Christ*, tr. Goulaeff, p. 176

CHRISTIANS THEN ARE OF ANOTHER WORLD, sons of the heavenly Adam, a new race, children of the Holy Spirit, shining brethren of Christ, like their Father, the heavenly shining Adam. Of that city, of that kindred, of that power, they are not of this world, but of another world. He Himself says, *Ye are not of this world, even as I am not of this world*. But as a merchant on a voyage of many stages, in the multiplication of his merchandise, sends to his friends to procure him houses, gardens, clothes that he requires, and when he sets out for home, brings with him great wealth, and his friends and kinsfolk welcome him with great rejoicing, so in spiritual things, if any are making the heavenly wealth their merchandise, their fellow citizens, the spirits of saints and angels, are aware of it, and say with admiration, “Our brethren on the earth have come into great wealth.” So they, having the Lord with them at their departure, come with mighty rejoicing to those above, and those who belong to the Lord receive them, having prepared for them there houses, and gardens, and clothes all bright and costly.

St Macarius the Great, *Fifty Spiritual Homilies*,
tr. Mason, Homily xvi, p. 138

PEARLS FROM THE HOLY FATHERS

October 28 – November 3, 2013