



■ † Seventh Sunday of St. Matthew

He Enters Only When He is Invited* Faith and Receptivity



“**A**ccording to your faith be it unto you,” (St. Matthew 9:29) said the Lord to the two blind men, and immediately their eyes were opened.

The greater one's faith, the greater is the inpouring of Divine power. Faith is the receiver, mouth, and receptacle of Grace.

Just as one person's lungs are large while another person's are small, and the large take in more air, while the small take in less, so one person has a large degree of faith, and another a small degree, and one person's faith receives more gifts from the Lord, and another person's fewer.

God is everywhere, encompasses everything and contains all things, and He wishes to dwell in human souls. But He does not forcibly enter them, even though He is Almighty,

He enters when He is invited; for He does not want to infringe upon man's free will or man's right to “rule his own house,” a right granted by God Himself.

Whoever opens himself to the Lord with faith, He will enter therein. Whoever closes himself through unbelief, however, the Lord will not enter, even though He is near.

Lord! Strengthen our faith, for faith is a gift from Thee.

Each of us should confess: “Poor and needy am I” (Psalm. 69:6).



(* St. Theophan the Recluse, *Thoughts for Each Day of the Year According to the Daily Church Readings from the Word of God.*