



■ † **Seventh Sunday of St. Luke**

## **True Prayer\*** **Full of Faith, Hope, and Devotion**



**O**penly, in front of everyone, Jairus fell to the Savior's feet beseeching the Lord to heal his daughter, and he was heard. The Lord, saying nothing, immediately arose and went to his house.

On His way to Jairus' house, the Lord healed a woman with an issue of blood—not, to be sure, without prayer on her part. Although she did not appeal in word and did not fall down at the Lord's feet, she had a heartfelt prayer of faith. The Lord heard her and healed her. Here everything took place secretly. The woman with the issue of blood turned to the Lord in her heart, and the Lord heard this cry of her heart and granted her petition.

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**B**oth this woman and Jairus had essentially the same prayer, although we can discern certain degrees in them. Such **prayers full of faith, hope, and devotion never go unheard.**

People sometimes say, "I pray and pray, but my prayer still is not heard."

Strive a little to ascend to a measure of prayer that cannot be refused, and you will see why it was not heard. Whether you are in a prayerful state like Jairus, or in a simple, ordinary one like everyone around him (such as the woman with the issue

of blood), when **true prayer** arises in your heart it will undoubtedly reach the Lord and incline Him to mercy. The question is how to attain such prayer. Labour, and you will attain it.

All prayer rules have as their purpose to lift up those who pray to such a measure of prayer, and all who prudently follow this course of prayer reach their goal.



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