

## God uses everything for the good. St. Paisios the Athonite

**God permits something to happen only if good will result from it.**

### St. Paisios the Athonite



**Christ sees from on high how each of us acts, knows when and how He Himself will act for our good. He knows when and where to lead us, if we only ask His help, reveal our desires to Him and let Him arrange everything Himself.**

When I was in the Athos Philofoev Monastery, I wanted to go into the desert. I wanted to go away to one desert island and had already made arrangements with the boatman, so that he would come and take me, but in the end, he did not arrive. God so arranged it, because I was still inexperienced and would have come to great grief on the desert island, I would have become the victim of demons. Then, when I was unsuccessful with the island, I had a great desire to go to Katunaki. I liked the Katunaki Monastery, I prayed to be there and prepared for this. I wanted to live and toil next to the Elder Peter – a man of great spiritual life. But an event occurred which forced me to go not to Katunaki, but to Konits. One evening

after Compline, I went to my cell and prayed till late at night. Around 11 o'clock, I lay down to rest. At 1:30 at night I was awakened by the monastery gong, calling the brotherhood to the church for midnight prayer. I tried to rise, but I couldn't. An unseen power bound me, and I did not have the strength to move. I understood that something special was happening. I remained bound to my bed until midday. I could pray, think, but I could not move at all. While I was in this state, I could see, as if on television, Katunaki on one side, the Stomion Monastery in Konits on the other. With great desire, I focused my eyes in the direction of Katunaki, and then a voice clearly said to me:

“You will go not to Katunaki, but to the Stomion Monastery.” This was the voice of the Most Holy Theotokos.

“Mother of God, — I said, — I asked You for solitude, and You are sending me into the world?” And I again heard the same voice, severely telling me:

“You will go and meet such and such a person. He will help you greatly.” I was immediately freed of my unseen bonds, and **my heart was filled with Divine Grace**. Then I went and told my confessor what happened. **“This is the will of God, — my confessor said, — but — do not tell**

anyone about this. Say, that because of your health (at the time I had bleeding) you have to go to Athos, and then go.”

**I wanted one thing, but God had His Own plan.** I thought then, that God’s will was for me to rebuild the monastery in Konits. Thus, I would fulfill the vow given by me to the Mother of God, when I was in the war. “Mother of God, — I asked Her then, — help me to become a monk, and I will work three years and bring Your burned down monastery to order.” But, as it became clear later, the main reason for which the Most Holy Theotokos sent me there was the necessity of helping 80 families, who were seduced into Protestantism, to return to Orthodoxy.

God often permits something to happen for the benefit of many people. He never does only one good thing, but 3-4 good things together. **And God never lets evil happen if much good does not come out of it. Everything: mistakes, and dangers, He uses for our benefit.** Good and evil are intermixed with each other. Therefore, you must believe that **God permits something to happen only if good will result from it**, because He loves His creation. For example, He can permit some small temptation in order to keep us from a bigger one.

God wants our soul to be simple without many thoughts and too much knowledge; like an infant that expects everything from its parents. That is why the Lord said: “If you do not become like children you will not be able to enter in the Kingdom of God.” We must humbly pray to God and admit our weakness, and this way we will be able to free ourselves from our concerns and worries; **just as our shadow closely follows our body, God’s mercy will follow our humility and faith.**

**Let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.**

**The Father is my hope, the Son my refuge, the Holy Spirit my protection: All-Holy Trinity, glory to You!**

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