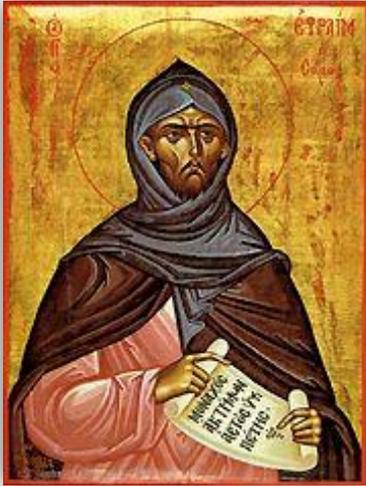


*"How Many Times Have I Promised,
Yet Every Time I Failed to Keep My Word.
But Disregard This According to Your Grace."*



Grant forgiveness, O Lord, send also strength. Convert me that I might live in sanctity, according to Your holy will. Sanctify my heart that has become a den and dwelling-place of demons.

I am unworthy to ask forgiveness for myself, O Lord, for many times have I promised to repent and proved myself a liar by not fulfilling my promise. You have picked me up many times already, but every time I freely chose to fall again.

Therefore I condemn myself and admit that I deserve all manner of punishment and torture. How many times have You enlightened my darkened mind; yet every time I return again to my evil thoughts! My whole body trembles when I contemplate on this; yet every time sinful sensuality conquers me.

How shall I recount all the gifts of Your grace, O Lord, that I the pitiful one have received? Yet I have reduced them all to nothing by my lack of concern, and I continue on in this manner. You have bestowed upon me thousands of gifts, yet miserable me, I offer in return things repulsive to you.

Yet You, O Lord, inasmuch as You contain a sea of longsuffering and an abyss of kindness, do not allow me to be felled as a fruitless fig tree; and do not let me be burned without having ripened on the field of life. Snatch me not away unprepared; seize not me for I have not yet lit my lamp; take not away me who has no wedding garment; but, because You are good and the lover of mankind, have mercy on me. Give me time to repent, and place not my soul stripped naked before Your terrible and unwavering throne as a pitiful spectacle of infamy.

If a righteous man can barely be saved, then where will I end up, I who am lawless and sinful? If the path that leads to life is straight and narrow, then how can I be guaranteed of such good things, I who live a life of luxury, indulging in my own pleasures and indulgences? But You, O Lord, my Saviour, Son of the true God, as You know and desire it, by Your grace alone, freely turn me away from the sin that abides in me and save me from ruin.

Edited into Modern English by Bishoy Marcus