



Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

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The Gospel of “*Nevertheless*” October 5, 2025

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; ***nevertheless*** at Your word I will let down the net."

The reaction of Simion, to whom the Lord gave the nickname Peter later in his apostleship, is both reasonable and understandable.

Master, we toiled all night and caught nothing.

What stands out, however, is his willingness to follow the Lord's command *nevertheless*.

Nevertheless, I will let down the net.

Nevertheless, I will do as you say, even though it is useless.

Nevertheless, I will obey you, Lord, in spite of the fact that I can see no hope in doing so.

Of all the words in the gospels the word “*nevertheless*” is the most powerful.

It is the summary of faith, of the assurance of things hoped for, the first step in our relational response to the Lord's invitation, and for that matter, the essence of the Good News.

One of the first places we encounter the word is in the Old Testament stories surrounding the First Testament, the original covenant made with Abraham and Sarah. Sarah laughs when she is told by the angels that she will have a child, because she is beyond the age of child-bearing. *Nevertheless*, she and Abraham do have a child and it is the beginning of the formation of God's special people within the history of humanity, the people from whom will come the Savior, Jesus Christ. Then, just as it seems that the promise for God is beginning to take root, God asks Abraham to sacrifice his child, Isaac. How it must of broken his heart to do so, and who would have been surprised if he had disobeyed. But,

“*nevertheless*,” he did not. And his faith, his obedience, led to the greater manifestation of God’s mercy. God himself provided the sacrifice! Abraham’s action, his faith, his “*nevertheless*,” not only led to the continuation of God’s plan, but revealed that in His divine essence God is all-merciful. 2

All of scripture revolves about this word, “*nevertheless*.”

We are sinful and selfish and often cruel and violence; “*nevertheless*,” God offers His forgiveness when we come to Him in repentance. We do not trust Him even one little bit as did Abraham; “*nevertheless*,” God pours forth His mercy and life upon us without limit.

We are called to sow the seed of His Word on rocky ground, poor soil, in places where it cannot possibly grow. “*Nevertheless*,” the Lord said in His parable of the Sower and the Seed, it will grow with unexpected success, not merely 100 % but 100 times 100 %!

The fishing is useless. “*Nevertheless*,” said Simon Peter, we will let down the net. And when they do so, the catch is miraculous. So many fish that it must have broken the nets as they pulled them in.

This word “*nevertheless*” is to be sure the essence of the Gospel and the key to our lives as Christian disciples.

We are unworthy servants, *nevertheless* God loves us, sustains us and promises us life eternal with Him. His Spirit pulls us ever closer, even as we stray ever farther away.

It seems hopeless to have a congregation like ours in the midst of a culture of consumerism, selfishness and the unending quest for pleasure. *Nevertheless*, God calls us to do just that. And the fruits of our obedience will be miraculous. Most likely in ways we will never even see.

Fr. Elias

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