

Father, I have sinned against you!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2020 Alexandra Houck.
Email is orthodoxchildrensword (at) gmail.com. Find it each week at myocn.net.

The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

Sunday, February 16, 2020

Volume 8, Issue 7

A Ministry of the
Orthodox Christian Network



God gives us freedom

Can you think of a time your parents gave you a choice to do something? Maybe they let you decide whether to go somewhere, or what to eat, or what color to paint the walls. They probably knew the best way, but they still let you decide.

Today, we hear a story that tells us how our loving God gives us that kind of freedom. He gives us freedom, even for things that matter a lot more than what to have for dinner! He lets us decide, even though He knows the best way.

Do you remember the story of the Prodigal Son, the story about the young man who wasted all his money and lived with the pigs? Do you remember how he felt sorry for what he had done, and he came back to his father?

And...do you remember if his father forced him to come back? Or did he let him choose to come back? The story of the Prodigal Son shows us how God loves us so much that He grants us the great gift of freedom. God knows when we do wrong, but He lets us make our own choices—bad or good! God lets *us* decide when to come back to Him. God lets *us* decide if we want to say we are sorry. God lets *us* decide how close we want to be to Him.

This gift of freedom is a big one. God respects us and loves us. He knows the right way, but never forces us to follow Him. Let's thank God for freedom, and let's choose the right way!



WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

FORCE
FREEDOM
HEAVEN
MARTYR
PRODIGAL
RECRUIT
THANK YOU
THEODORE
WASTING

I B K Z N L W W A S T I N G Z
P M F X D P Z D X E W Y K A N
S V A S Y I Y Y X S B R G A I
W C O R U E E O J C V P M H X
S J D A T O K P E V T H I B F
T Q L M B Y O D J T U K Q Q V
L A G I D O R P H F Q Q Y P T
U E U C Y R V E R S T L O E I
D E P O T G O I M X T M B Z B
D Y S Q Y D E O T Z I H Z Y G
G G I A O K D N F W U E D O E
L F O R X E N O J J R A N Z J
X P E W E R R A G P C V V A V
L C H R C C O A H X E E F W T
F G F U E S G P Q T R N X R Q

A SOLDIER SAINT

ST. THEODORE THE RECRUIT



St. Theodore the Recruit

Saint Theodore lived about 250 years after Christ lived.

Just think... what happened 250 years ago for YOU? America was about to become its own country. Men were wearing funny wigs. Women were wearing long, poofy skirts. It seems like so long ago, doesn't it?

But for Saint Theodore, Christ's death and resurrection was as alive to him and as real to him as if he had known Christ on earth himself. That's because he had such a strong faith in our Lord!

St. Theodore was a young soldier. He is called "the recruit" because he had just been recruited to serve in the Roman army. In those days, being a Christian was absolutely forbidden. But St. Theodore knew what was important. He wasn't trying to become emperor. He wasn't trying to become rich or powerful. He loved God, and nothing could stop him from serving Him! So when he told the ruler he was a Christian, St. Theodore was punished a little. The ruler thought he'd come around and change his mind. But our saint did not. Instead, he burned the popular temple where people worshipped idols!

THAT was the last straw. St. Theodore was killed for his faith, and now he is alive again with Christ in Heaven!

We celebrate St. Theodore tomorrow, Feb. 17 (March 1, OC).

WHAT'S IN AN ICON?

Just more than a week ago, we celebrated another Saint Theodore who was a soldier saint.

This is an icon of the two of them! It is an icon from the famous Rila Monastery in Bulgaria.

