Why Does It Take So Long?

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So often, with great expectations, we will

renew our commitment to the Orthodox Way of Life by making significant changes in our life and how we spend our time.

We will increase our time in prayer, participate more regularly in services and sacraments, begin to read Scripture and the lives of the saints daily.

Yet, we find we are still confronted with the same desires and distractions that keep us separated from God. We expect instant success and we do not find it. We grumble that we followed the instruction from a wise elder yet do not experience any improvement in our relationship with God. Why do we expect such instant success? Why is it so difficult? $(\pi\epsilon\rho\iota\sigma\sigma\acute{o}\tau\epsilon\rho\alpha...)$