

## Neither quick nor easy (Saint Macarius of Egypt)

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You can't reach the spiritual heights all at once or even very easily. You have to have labored and striven over many years, with trials and various temptations before you reach the perfection of defeating the passions. Once you've been tested with pains and labors and have courageously endured all the temptations occasioned by wickedness, you're deemed worthy to receive the great honors and gifts of the Holy Spirit, as well as the divine riches. You then become an heir of the Kingdom of Heaven. By the Grace of the Holy Spirit, each of us gains the salvation of our soul. But we have to contribute as well, through our own efforts.