

■ † Third Sunday of St. Matthew

Eye - Mind
Body - Soul*

“**I**f, therefore, thine **eye** be **single**, thy whole **body** shall be full of light. But if thine **eye** be **evil**, thy whole **body** shall be full of darkness” (St. Matthew 6:22-23).

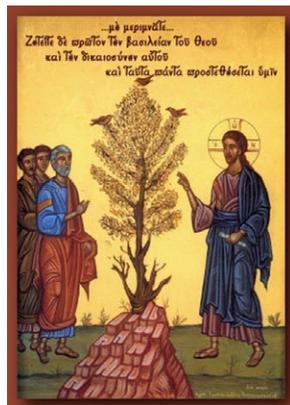
Here the **mind** is called the **eye**, and the **entire composition of the soul** is called the **body**. Thus, when the mind is simple then it is light in the soul; when the mind is evil, then it is dark in the soul.

What are a **simple** mind and an **evil** mind?

■ **A simple mind** is one that accepts the word of God as is written, and is convinced beyond a doubt that all is indeed as is written. It has no cunning, no wavering or hesitation.

■ **An evil mind** is one that approaches the word of God with slyness, artful disputation, and questioning. It cannot directly believe, but subjects the word of God to its sophistry. It approaches the word not as a disciple, but as a judge and critic, to test what is stated, and then either scoffs at it, or says in a haughty manner, “Yes, not bad.”

Such a **mind** has no firm tenets, because it clearly does not believe the word of God, and its own rationale is always unstable—today one way, tomorrow another. It has only waver-



ing, confusion, questions without answers; everything is out of place with it, and it walks in the dark, fumbling along.

A simple mind sees everything clearly: everything in it has a definite character, determined by the word of God. That is why everything in it has its place, and it knows exactly how to behave with relation to things—it walks along open, visible roads, with complete assurance that they lead to the true goal.



(*) St. Theophan the Recluse, *Thoughts for Each Day of the Year According to the Daily Church Readings from the Word of God*.