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The fountain of tears is greater than baptism – photo journal from the Vespers of Forgiveness



Greater than baptism itself is the fountain of tears after baptism, even though it is somewhat audacious to say so. For baptism is the washing away of evils that were in us before, but sins committed after baptism are washed away by tears. As baptism is received in infancy, we have all defiled it, but we cleanse it anew with tears. And if God in His love for mankind had not given us tears, few indeed and hard to find would be those in a state of grace.

Types of tears
Groanings and sorrows cry to the Lord. Tears shed from fear intercede for us; but tears of all-holy love show us that our prayer has been accepted.

If you possess the gift of mourning, hold on to it with all your might. For it is easily lost when it is not firmly established. And just as wax melts in the presence of fire, so it is easily dissolved by noise and bodily cares, and by luxury, and especially by talkativeness and levity.

That’s why we have the Great Lent as a special period dedicated specially to tears.



edi monastery, Mount Athos











































































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Based on Saint John of the Ladder

Moments from the Vespers of Forgiveness, Vatopedi monastery, Mount Atos



















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