

Is this possible? (Elder Sophrony of Essex)

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The path of the Christian is like this, in general terms. Initially, we're attracted to God with the gift of grace, and once we've been thus attracted, then there begins a

long period of trial. Our freedom is tested, as is our trust in God, and the test is harsh. At first, our requests to God, great and small, even those just barely expressed, are fulfilled by God, usually very quickly and in a wonderful way. But when the period of testing arrives, then everything changes and it's as if the heavens have closed and are deaf to our entreaties. Does God then abandon us? Is this possible?