

You Can Be A Saint

Introduction: Yes, **you** can be a saint; in fact you ought to be and must be, if you are going to please God!

I) Mistaken Ideas

- * Catholic - elevated position of honor due to a life of good works; a sort of super-Christian; e.g. St. Valentine, St. Christopher, St. Patrick, etc. Debate is now over whether “Mother” Teresa should be given sainthood.
- * Protestant - Sanctification is God purifying or cleansing you from your inborn depraved nature. A work of grace wrought in your heart by God without you having anything to do with it. Expressions like “the Lord laid it on my heart” spring out of this mind set.
- * Pentecostals - Associated with spiritual gifts, esp. speaking in tongues.

II) The Truth

- * All Christians are saints - I Corinthians 1:2
- * Sanctification is not cleansing - John 17:19
- * Miraculous tongue speaking has ceased - I Corinthians 13:8

III) The Word Family

- * Holy, holiness, hallowed, sanctify, sanctified, sanctification, saint, sacred, consecrated
- * Basically it means to “set apart”, “make special”, “be devoted or dedicated”.
- * We can actually sanctify the Lord - I Peter 3:15

IV) God Begins The Process

- * Calls us to be saints - I Corinthians 1:2
- * Sanctifies us - I Corinthians 6:11
- * Our contact with God makes us sanctified - Matthew 23:16-19

V) Requires Continual Effort On Our Part

- * We present ourselves for holiness - Romans 6:19-22
- * We cleanse ourselves - II Corinthians 7:1
- * I Thessalonians 4:3-8

VI) Being A Saint is Essential - Hebrews 12:14

VII) The Mechanics

- * II Thessalonians 2:13 teaches the Holy Spirit sanctifies us...but how? Directly or by some means or agency?
- * Illustrations:
 1. Did George Washington chop down the cherry tree or was it a hatchet?
 2. The **Jews** crucified Jesus (Acts 2:36)? Was it not the Romans? (see verse 23).
- * The Holy Spirit sanctifies us through the Word - I Thessalonians 4:1-3
- * Through the truth - John 17:17

VIII) So What?

- * If you have yet to become a saint, you ought to TODAY!
- * Once set apart for God’s purposes, we must keep ourselves “saintly” everyday.
- * If the process is to continue, we must let the word of Christ dwell in us richly

Conclusion: You can be a saint!