

**Are You
A
Saint?**

Are You a Saint?

The short answer, if you are a believer, is “yes.” All believers are saints. Paul addressed every one of his letters to believers. He called believers “saints,” not “Christians.”

Romans 1:7 (page 1050)

To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, **called to be saints**: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 16:15 (page 1063)

Salute Philologus, and Julia, Nereus, and his sister, and Olympas, and **all the saints which are with them.**

1 Corinthians 1:2 (page 1064)

Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

Ephesians 1:1 (page 1092)

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God,
to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

Colossians 1:2 (page 1101)

To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

What most people think of when they think of becoming “saints” is the process used by the Catholic church to grant “sainthood” to some people after that person’s death.

Step one: Wait five years after the person has died.

Step two: Become a 'servant of God'

Once the five years are up, or a waiver is granted, the bishop of the diocese where the person died can open an investigation into the life of the individual, to see whether they lived their lives

with sufficient holiness and virtue to be considered for sainthood.

But the Bible says that no one can live his/her life with holiness and virtue.

Luke 18:19 (page 975)

And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? **none is good, save one, that is, God.**

Step three: Show proof of a life of 'heroic virtue'

The Congregation for the Causes of Saints scrutinizes the evidence of the candidate's holiness, work and signs that people have been drawn to prayer through their example.

But the Bible says that there is no one who does good works.

Romans 3:12 (page 1052)

They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; **there is none that doeth good, no, not one.**

If the Congregation approves the case, it is passed to the Pope.

Step four: Verified miracles

To reach the next stage, beatification, a miracle needs to be attributed to prayers made to the individual after their death. The prayers being granted are seen as proof that the individual is already in heaven, and hence able to intercede with God on others' behalf.

The Bible says that when believers die, we are immediately with the Lord. There is nothing in the Bible about arriving in heaven at a later time—it is immediate.

2 Corinthians 5:6-8 (page 1080)

Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) **We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.**

Step five: Canonization

Canonization is the final step in declaring a deceased person a saint. To reach this stage, a second miracle normally needs to be attributed to prayers made to the candidate after they have been beatified.

Some people pray to saints to make intercession for them to God. They also celebrate days to commemorate saints. Should we do that?

You know there is nothing that can cause us to lose our salvation. The Bible tells us what God wants us to do, and it is pleasing to God when we obey Him. But we are not under law, so there is no condemnation for the believer. Just a reminder:

1 Corinthians 6:12 (page 1067)

All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

1 Corinthians 10:23 (page1071)

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.

Romans 14:5-6

One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. **Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it.** He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

Do we need saints to intercede for us? No. There is no need for another intercessor, because we have the highest Intercessor, the Holy Ghost--God Himself--making intercession for us (saints!)

Romans 8:26 -27 (page 1056)

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the **Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings** which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the **mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.**

Jesus Christ, who died for us to save us, also intercedes for us with God!

Romans 8:34 (page 1057)

Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, **who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.**

1 Timothy 2:5-6 (page 1111)

For there is one God, and **one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus**; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time

So there is no need for us to pray to saints for their intercession in the hope that they have a faster track to God's ear. We have God Himself interceding for us, and we know that God cannot deny Himself.

2 Timothy 2:10-13 (page 1115)

Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also

live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: **If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.**

The Bible tells us that we do not know what we should pray for; that's why we need an intercessor. Every one of our prayers is answered, by God, who intercedes and then answers our prayer in the way it ought to be prayed/answered.

Romans 8:26 (page 1056)

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what **we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.**

As you read the verse above, realize that it is us who are doing the groaning, not the Spirit. The Spirit intercedes for us, even when we are unable to do anything but groan.

The Bible makes it clear that, with God, there is no person who is above or different from any other person.

Romans 2:11 (page 1031)

For there is no respect of persons with God.

Ephesians 6:9 (page 1096)

And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; **neither is there respect of persons with him.**

Man may choose to make some people “saints,” and not others, but with God, all of us come short of His Glory.

Romans 3:1-2 (page 1052)

Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: **For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;**

The bottom line is that we are each responsible for ourselves. It doesn't matter how many people we try to get to intercede on our behalf.

Galatians 6:7 (page 1091)

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for **whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.**

God promises us that when we make our requests of God with supplication and thanksgiving, we will receive the peace of God in our hearts and in our minds. That is the perfect answer to every prayer!

Philippians 4:6-7 (page 1099)

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And **the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**