

**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

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

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

1 Corinthians 1:2

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

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:

Philippians 1:1

Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ,
to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

Colossians 1:2

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.

This Bible study will take a look at what we commonly think about a person who is a saint, and see if our Apostle Paul uses the word "saint" in the same way.

There are 5 steps in the Catholic Church's process for declaring someone a saint. Then, we will take a look at what the Bible says about each step. Maybe you are a saint!!!

In our case, we are going to ignore the first step.

Catholic Church Step One:

Wait five years after the person has died.

What the Bible Says:

The most important time to be a saint is when you are still alive and can help others become saints.

Ephesians 2:19-22

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

When you believe that the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ paid for your sins, and saves you for eternity, you become fellowcitizens with all of the other members of the Church, the Body of Christ, and together, a

holy temple in the Lord. Here is the gospel that saves us.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Moreover, brethren, **I declare unto you the gospel** which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; **By which also ye are saved**, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

Catholic Church Step Two:

Become a 'servant of God'

A formal request for an individual to be considered for sainthood is submitted to a special Vatican tribunal. *The request must explain how the person lived a life of holiness, pureness, kindness and devotion. If the candidate meets the requirements, the tribunal officially recognises this person to be a Servant of God.*

What the Bible Says:

Every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is a servant of God.

1 Corinthians 7:22

For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also **he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant.**

As servants of Christ, we cannot not worry about pleasing men.

Galatians 1:10

For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? **for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.**

As servants of Christ, all believers are to be gentle, kind, patient, and meek to help unbelievers save themselves from the devil.

2 Timothy 2:24-26

And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them

repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;
And that they may recover themselves out of the
snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him
at his will.

As servants of Christ, and members of His body,
we have the Holy Ghost in our hearts. Paul tells
us that we have the fruit of the Spirit, the Holy
Ghost, because He lives in us. All of us have love,
joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness,
faith, meekness, and temperance.

This fruit is a package deal. (Notice, it is not
“fruits.”) You cannot have some of the fruit and
not the rest. Some believers show these
attributes more than others but all believers have
them.

Galatians 5:22-25

**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
Meekness, temperance: against such there is no
law. And they that are Christ's have crucified
the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live
in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**

Catholic Church Step Three:

Show proof of a life of 'heroic virtue'

The person being considered for sainthood in the Catholic Church must have shown the following virtues: Prudence, Justice, Temperance, Courage, Faith, Hope, and Charity.

What the Bible Says:

You have probably noticed that the virtues of the candidates for sainthood are very similar to the virtues every believer processes because of the indwelling Holy Ghost.

But everyone, including candidates for sainthood, has sinned and come short of the glory of God. It is by faith in Jesus Christ only, that all believers (not just some) become righteous.

Romans 3:22-23

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;**

It is nothing that we do that makes us righteous. It is our faith in Jesus Christ alone that makes us righteous.

Romans 4:5

But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

Paul tells Titus that it is not works of righteousness that save us, but God's mercy. He continues that those of us who have been saved by God's mercy should be careful to maintain good works. This is not to "keep" our salvation, but it is pleasing to God that we do things that are good and profitable to others.

Titus 3:4-8

But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, **Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;** Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs

according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying, and these things **I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works.** These things are good and profitable unto men.

Catholic Church 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.

What the Bible Says:

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

2 Corinthians 5: 6-8

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.

Catholic Church 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. After the canonisation, the saint's name is added to the catalogue of saints and every member of the Roman Catholic Church may worship and pray to this saint

What the Bible Says:

Do we need to pray to saints to intercede for us?

No.

We have an intercessor, the highest Intercessor, the Holy Ghost—God Himself—making intercession for us (saints!) Not only does He take our prayers to God, He prays them according to God's will—something we cannot do—so God can answer every prayer! Paul says, “we know not what we should pray for as we ought.”

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

Romans 8:26 -27

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 to save us, also intercedes for us with God! He is seated at the right hand of God so He has constant access to our Heavenly Father.

Romans 8:34

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.

Paul tells Timothy that Jesus Christ is the mediator between God and men. Jesus Christ, the man, the person. He paid the ransom for us to reconcile us to God.

1 Timothy 2:5-6

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 (in the form of the Holy Ghost and Jesus Christ) interceding for us, and we know that God cannot deny Himself. Our prayers are always answered in God's perfect will.

2 Timothy 2:10-13

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 Catholic Church permits its members to even worship saints. This is certainly not Biblical. The Apostle Peter, whom most Catholics believe was the first Pope (which is certainly not the case because Peter is Jewish) was sent to a Gentile named Cornelius. Cornelius had been told by an angel to send for Peter to hear the gospel of the kingdom. When Peter showed up, Cornelius fell down at Peter's feet and worshipped him. Peter told him not to do it because he, Peter, was also a man.

Acts 10:22-26

And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee. Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him. And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and

had called together his kinsmen and near friends. And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. **But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.**

So, the man that the Catholic Church believes is the first Pope, makes it clear that he is not to be worshipped because he is a man. We should not worship any man, alive or dead.

Paul makes it clear that we should not even worship angels. He says a person who does that is beguiled.

Colossians 2:18-19

Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

Jesus Christ Himself makes it very clear!

Matthew 4:10

Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, **Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.**

With God, there is no person—living or dead—who is above, or different from any other person.

Romans 2:11

For there is no respect of persons with God.

Ephesians 6:9

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.**

Of course, Paul was right. You are a saint! There is no need to go through a process to determine whether or not a believer is a saint. Every believer is a saint. There is no need to pray to a saint to get your prayers answered. You have a direct line to the Creator of the Universe and He has given you 2 Intercessors to make your prayers perfect, so every one can be answered.

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

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.**