

Unlikely Saints
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November 1st is a day that has been set aside as a day to remember those of great faith who have been a blessing to us. We call it All Saints' Day, and we especially remember those who have died in the faith and the legacy they have left behind. How good must you be to be called a Saint?

A Christian is no more perfect than any other person. We too are filled with sin and failures, weaknesses and struggles. The difference is that a Christian fully acknowledges these sins and receives forgiveness for them. Christ paid the price for our sins; He received the punishment we should have received, and so we are called Saints! Fully forgiven people without the stain of sin!

Followers of Christ are, at the same time, fully sinners and fully Saints. *“But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.” Ephesians 2:4.* God does not require any action on our part to be deemed a Saint; it only requires forgiveness earned and given to us from Christ.

The reality of being both sinner and Saint isn't easy to grasp. In fact, more often than not we lean too far one way or the other. One day I might think I am not good enough to serve God or be loved by Him; another day I might be so excited about what Jesus has done I think I am better than someone else. This challenge is real, and we are not alone. Read Romans chapters 6-8 if you want to wrestle through this very thing with Paul.

Generation after generation normal people, like you and me, are called to rest firmly in God's grace. We are called to celebrate our forgiveness and find joy in our failures. We are called to live our faith in such an authentic way that it inspires others around us, just like someone living their faith inspired us! We are called by God to be the most Unlikely Saints.

You may not think you are the one up for being such a role model. You may think your past is too great to overcome or you are not equipped enough for today. I assure you, these things only make you MORE qualified. The more we lean on Christ's forgiveness, the more He shines through. The more we point to Him, the greater example we are to those who are furthest from Him. If you could be a Saint, live like a Saint, forgive like a Saint without God's power, you wouldn't need God.

Let's celebrate the blessings of God's faithful people who have passed down the faith to us. Together we will *“spur one another on toward love and good deeds” Hebrews 10:24.* And, in the end, we will be the most unlikely of Saints together! Others will know the most unlikely gift of God's unconditional love through us.