

# CALLED TO BE SAINTS

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## THE LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 1

What is a “saint”? And what do we have in common with someone like that? The word “saint” literally means a “holy one”, and in the scriptures it is used to describe all faithful believers. When we look at the saints of the Church, we find that they were people who faced very human dilemmas and made very human mistakes. But regardless of those challenges and failings, they put their trust in God, and through them he did wonderful things.

So what do we have in common with the saints? We serve the same unchanging God. We share the same foundation. And God’s providential care is helping us towards the same goal. These people from far-flung eras and places are our *family*. We have a lot in common with them, and a lot to learn from them.

## AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Each morning and evening, follow your own rule of prayer.

(IF YOU DON’T HAVE ONE, TRY SAYING THE MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS FROM THE “FORMS OF PRAYER TO BE USED IN FAMILIES”, WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 728 OF THE BCP. IF YOU DON’T HAVE A COPY, YOU CAN LOOK IT UP HERE: [HTTP://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER.](http://prayerbook.ca/resources/bcponline/family-prayer))

Spend some time this week reflecting on Psalm 30:4-5. Remember that *you* are one of “his saints”:

*Sing praises to the Lord, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.*

*For his anger is but for a moment, and his favour is for a lifetime.*

*Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.*

- AND/OR -

Take some time to pray through this collect.

*O eternal Lord God, who holdest all souls in life: We beseech thee to shed forth upon thy whole Church in Paradise and on earth the bright beams of thy light and heavenly comfort; and grant that we, following the good example of those who have loved thee and served thee here and are now at rest, may at the last enter with them into the fulness of thine unending joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

(PRAYER FOR THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS, PAGE 56)

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## 1 CORINTHIANS 1: **ONLY ONE THING TO BOAST ABOUT**

<sup>1</sup>Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, <sup>2</sup>To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: <sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— <sup>6</sup>even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— <sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup>who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord...

<sup>26</sup>For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup>so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”