

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN BECOME A SAINT?

I read a story about a priest who was talking to a group of people and he asked them: "Who among you wants to go to heaven?" Immediately, without hesitation, they all raised their hands and said Me, Me, Me! And then, the priest asked them: "Who among you wants to become a saint?" Surprisingly, not a single hand was raised. Instead, they all shook their heads. One said "I don't know." Another said "I don't think I can". "I'm not sure" said another. And one said "I don't think so."

Why such a reaction, you may wonder. Well, it seems a lot of people believe, what Catholic author and speaker Matthew Kelly refers to in one his books, as the biggest lie in the history of Christianity. And this is the lie – Holiness is not possible!

Sadly, many Christians believe that holiness is not possible for them! Maybe it's possible for their grandma or their grandpa or maybe for saints who lived hundreds of year ago. But for them? uh uh, no way!

What about you? If I ask you if you want to go to heaven, will you give me a resounding yes? What if I ask you if you want to become a saint? How will you react?

The truth is holiness is not only possible for you and me, for all of us, but we are called to holiness. In his first letter, Peter said: "...as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

In this age that we live in, it's not easy to be holy. We all know that. But even though God commands us to be holy, that doesn't mean He expects us to grow a halo right away! He knows that holiness is something that needs to be learned, practiced and lived.

And more importantly, the grace to be holy is freely and abundantly given. We just have to work and cooperate with it. How do you do it?

You have to plan to become a saint. If you want to put up a business, you create a business plan. Right? So it is with sainthood. You may be wondering - A plan for sainthood? I know, that might sound weird or strange to you.

You may be asking: Can I actually plan for sainthood? Well, Pope St. John Paul II said that you can in one of his letters, *Novo Millennio Ineunte* (At The Beginning Of A New Millenium). He said:

“Can holiness ever be planned? What might the word “holiness” mean in the context of a pastoral plan?...To ask catechumens: “Do you wish to receive Baptism?” means at the same time to ask them: “Do you wish to become holy?”.

It means to set before them the radical nature of the Sermon on the Mount...The time has come to re-propose wholeheartedly to everyone this high standard of ordinary Christian living: the whole life of the Christian community and of Christian families must lead in this direction.”

At Digisaints.org, we propose a plan for sainthood based on the 8 Beatitudes which is a central part of the Sermon On The Mount. We believe that through the Beatitudes, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ gave us not just a Holiness Blueprint but the keys to true happiness.