



From the time we are little, most of us learn to rely quite a bit on our logic and on our feelings. Just watch a child for a few minutes and you will see it. They glance at their vegetables and reason that nothing good can come out of *anything* that looks like that — all without ever tasting it. They feel a flood of fear on their first day of school as they bury their heads into their mom or dad’s torso, begging to be removed from this scary destination filled with desks and distance from everything that is familiar. Of course, many times our logic and feelings operate as a gift from God that protects us from things that would otherwise harm us. But something dangerous takes root in our lives when our logic and feelings become our “default” place of existence. We find ourselves in the driver’s seat of our own destiny, believing that something can *only* be true if it makes sense to us and if it feels like it is true. Without knowing it, we exchange walking by faith for walking by sight and find ourselves leaning solely on our very incomplete understanding (see Proverbs 3:5-6).

And while it is true that we will eventually recognize every tree by the fruit coming out of it, your ability to really understand what is going on around you or who you *really* are now is — at this very moment — dependent not upon how you feel or what makes sense to you, but upon what your Father says about you. We must never forget that everything true takes root in our hearts before we may ever discern it manifesting in our feet. Perhaps there is no more true example than when Jesus says we are “saints.”

The definition of a “saint” is “pure, clean, blameless and set apart for a special purpose.” As we examine our own actions, we might feel tempted to disqualify ourselves. Indeed, many Christians define themselves as merely “sinners saved by grace.” But the reality is that God *never* calls a Christian a sinner. Sixty-six times in the New Testament, though, he calls us *saints*. It is impossible for God to lie. You *are* a saint: pure, clean, blameless and set apart with great purpose for God. You have an entirely new redeemed nature that doesn’t *have to* fall into sin (see 1 Corinthians 10:13). When he looks at you, he sees a holy one — not because he is seeing through rose-colored lenses — *but because it is truly who you are*. Our actions did not earn it, and our wavering feelings cannot change it. We *are* saints who are winning the war over sin by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and the more time we spend looking into the eyes of our Father, the more we will *believe* and act like who we are. Thank God for your logic and your feelings, but know that they are untrustworthy and wavering counselors. Silence every voice of shame. Embrace everything heaven says you are!

“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” 1 Corinthians 1:2 (ESV) – Emphasis added (See also Ephesians 1:1, Philippians 1:1, Colossians 1:2).

### QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

1. *Why is it important for us to view ourselves as “saints?”*
2. *Are there any areas where you seem to struggle with acting like a saint — feeling morally clean, pure or blameless before God? Talk to God about each, rejecting the lies one by one and asking his truth to wash over you.*

### PRAYER:

*Thank you Lord, for sanctifying me and calling me a saint. I choose to walk as who I really am today. I call my feelings and my logic to bow to the name of Jesus and his declarations about me. I command shame, guilt and condemnation to flee from me. I am redeemed — a new creation, fully accepted by my Father, with a heart that longs to love him! That's who I am. Everything else is a lie. Fill me with unspeakable joy today!*

### LISTENING TIME:

*Stop for a few minutes and ask the Lord what he wants to say to you. He might bring to mind a picture, a word, a song, an encouragement, a Scripture or an answer to a burden in your heart. Don't rush or feel pressure to figure out the meaning of your impressions. Just invite him to speak and draw or write down what you sense. Afterward, ask God to help you discern and understand what he is saying to you. You might want to ask other trusted friends in the Kingdom for their input as well.*

USE THE FOLLOWING SPACE TO RECORD WHAT GOD IS SAYING

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#### **TOOLS FOR FAMILY DEVOTIONS:**

How we define ourselves is important. Play a game like Scattergories with your family. Pick a letter and have every member of the family write a compliment or positive quality about each family member that starts with that letter. Keep score if you want. Extra points if you list more than one word for others. Go around and share your words, encouraging each member of your family.

#### **TOOLS FOR PRAYING FOR OTHERS:**

Pray for the Holy Spirit to show you someone who needs to get a call, text or letter encouraging them with their true identity. Ask God what he wants to say to them and share anything you feel him put on your heart.