

Modern sainthood

The story of the house. There are many rooms in your home, which ones are God allowed into?

1. Define what a saint is.
 2. What do saints do?
 3. Who can become a saint? (Review the saints)
 4. The communion of the cloud of witnesses
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1. We have many definitions of who we are. In the book *Wild at Heart*, the author writes that someone's name is the most important thing given to them in their entire life. Your name is the sound that belongs to you, and that sound is filled with what we do.
 2. Define sainthood, apostleship, discipleship
 1. Disciple-discere-learner
 2. Saint-Sanctus-holy
 1. Holy-heilig-whole
 3. Apostle- apostlein-apostolis-sent forth/messenger

God has called us to be saints— the word saints is repeated 229 times in the Bible

1 Thes 4:3 "For this is the will of God, your sanctification"

Exodus "7 And the Lord said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their [a]sorrows. 8 So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. 9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. 10 Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

11 But Moses said to God, "Who *am* I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

12 So He said, "I will certainly be with you. And this *shall be* a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

13 Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, *when* I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What *is* His name?' what shall I say to them?"

14 And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' "

The biggest change that a Christian has, is changing his mind to be about his or her self, to those around him or her. This transformation starts from saying "I" to "He"

I want, I did, I was, I can— that means that we have not enjoyed Christ's joy of His Salvation. How?!
By letting him lead the ship.

Exodus 4 6 Furthermore the Lord said to him, "Now put your hand in your bosom." And he put his hand in his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous, like snow. 7 And He said, "Put your hand in your bosom again." So he put his hand in his bosom again, and drew it out of his bosom, and behold, it was restored like his other flesh. 8 "Then it will be, if they do not believe you, nor heed the message of the first sign, that they may believe the message of the latter sign. 9 And it shall be, if they do not believe even these two signs, or listen to your voice, that you shall take water from [a]the river and pour it on the dry land. The water which you take from the river will become blood on the dry land."

10 Then Moses said to the Lord, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and [b]slow of tongue."

11 So the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord? 12 Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say."

13 But he said, "O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send."

14 So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses, and He said: "Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And look, he is also coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. 15 Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do. 16 So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God. 17 And you shall take this rod in your hand, with which you shall do the signs."

Snoop Dogg: "I want to thank me for believing in me, I want to thank me for doing all this hard work. I wanna thank me for having no days off. I wanna thank me for never quitting. I wanna thank me for always been a giver and trying to give more than I receive. I want to thank me for trying to do more right than wrong. I want to thank me for just being me at all times."

The transformation goes from I am X. To "I am one who is sent by the I AM"

When you think of your self, it will either bring you do depression/low self esteem or pride/arrogance which both lead to destruction.

Self centrisim—> a thought becomes a word, a word becomes an action, and action becomes a habit, and a habit becomes a lifestyle. When your lifestyle/words/and action is all meant for your comfort or for your ego, what will your life be?

I heard from an expert in relationships say, self-concern is the number one destructive quality in relationships, with people or with God. When you're upset and think "how could this person disrespect me?" "My friend should care for me" "I feel like this person is not understanding me correctly" "I was expecting so much more praising or respect for what I did" and I feel upset because I am so concerned with myself and my pride.

Moses could only overcome his barriers when he surrendered himself and accepted God's strength, words, direction.

— When the pope visits, how do the priests act? Do they say woah woah that's my seat!

2. The purpose of a calling is to find God and to do His will. The calling will get you to do his will.

A saint is someone who's life is committed to aligning to Gods will

— Be perfect as my Father in heaven is perfect

— Ted talk on Grit—> success in anything: work, relationships, and God, is the act of steadfastly committing to your goal regardless of what happens around you.

They don't talk about themselves once. What did they figure out?

What does it mean to be full of light? How do they float being so carefree?

"We are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses"— their example, their fulfillment of the law, their intercessions, and their care for us

3. Who can become a saint?

I didn't know that you can become a saint and be a part of this "choir of the saints" St. Paul talks about. Mari Mina, St George (dragonlayer) is crazy

"For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be."

Romans 8:6-7 NKJV

<https://www.bible.com/114/rom.8.6-7.nkjv>

It means keeping God in front of you at all times

Kanawa Tsugi is a 17th century Japanese technique for art and architecture where irregular shapes fit together to create tight interlocking joints to form super strong bonds without nails to hold up a

structure

1 cor 1:28-29 **28** God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, **29** so that no one may boast before him.

Gen 1:27 **27**

So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

John 15:16 **15** I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. **16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. **17** This is my command: Love each other.

A passage from the book (page 2)

— YOU don't need to look a certain way to be a saint.

—> St. Moses the black was a large aggressive man who repented

—> Pope Kyrillos was very blunt with people sometimes he even offended people with his directness

—> Tamav Irini was a leader, pushing for reform of the way St Philopateer wanted

Examples of modern saints:

Pope Kyrillos— his 50th year of passing was this week March 9. Friend of saint Mina

— Gifted to know the unknown, the thoughts of others, healed the sick, cast out demons, just like Christ.

— A dear friend of Egypt's first president Gamal Abdel Nassar— there was always a tension between the government and the Church, but the gentleness and prayerfulness won their hearts

— His children told one of our priests, there was never a time one of our brothers was sick that Pope Kyrillos didn't go to pray for our children. He won the heart of the president's family as Christ won so many people's hearts.

— There were those who didn't love him but he always had his door open without appointment for them "wake me if he ever comes and don't tell him I was sleeping"

Pope Shenouda— was a journalist. He was a writer who over the years got better and better and storytelling. He became the Bishop of Education and led the commitment of educating the church

on proper Christian dogma

- following the revival of the church into a church of prayer from Pope Kyrillos, the church and the governments tensions increased as more Christians were killed by radical Islam groups. Pope Shenoudas diplomacy or ability to wisely speak to political leaders protected the church so much. God really had a way of navigating the church!
- in the bylaws of the church, we have it written that the Coptic Church will care about the poor in the city. We not only have a commitment by Christ, but by one of the saints who knows Christ very intimately.
- Expanded the churches very widely across the world, founded the Ethiopian Orthodox Church
- He was a joyful man— when he was exiled to the Anba Bishoy Monestary, he used to speak with the Major General who imprisoned him and made him laugh so much that the General told him he's never laughed so much. His final Easter Liturgy message ended with "if you have nothing to offer someone, offer them a smile"

Mama Maggie— nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize

- The zebeleen— The smell is so bad that they consider it to be a pollution problem in Egypt. It's so bad, that they made a documentary about it!
- She's still alive
- Is she a bishop? A pope? A priest? A deacon?
- She started an organization called St. Stephen's Children and has made a global impact in one of the worst situations in the world
- All visitors and the servants take an oath to read the Bible every day and an oath to care for others
- She washed all of their feet
 - Everyone was crying from her great humility!

Tamav Irini was a dear friend of Abou Sefein

- she was born in a poor town in upper Egypt the oldest of 7 children
- she joined the Convent of Abu sefain at age 18 on 10/06/1954
- she reformed the monetary to allow communal life of monks and nuns (cenobeticism) based on St. Pachom's teaching (the father of the koinoinia)
- she founded two churches within the monetary dedicated to st Mercurius and st Mary
- She published a book highlighting the contribution of women to monastic and ascetic life and is one of the most historical works in modern day
- after she died, the nuns said she was an "enlightened mother, mentor, teacher, and guide whose lamp will remain forever"

1. befriend the saints

1. It's a weird request. Part of my job is to do research.. imagine if I had the worlds expert who already figured out how to cure cancer

2. Emulate the saints

1. Learn about their lives
2. What decisions did they make
3. What traits do you want to copy
 1. It's easier to copy them than Christ! (Celebrities)]
3. Accept the way of the saints— let go of your own ego and your own power to accept the love and grace of Christ, which deserve full time meditations

They ALL, grew up like us, committed to Christ at young ages, made monumental impacts because of God's work in their lives.

The story of the sinful woman— two people go in and out the same.

This lent, we have a high concentration of opportunity to meet Christ. Our consecration of this time to intimately meet with Christ can't not change us. It's not possible! Lay up your treasures in heaven, temptation in the wilderness, prodigal son, samiratan woman, healing the paralytic, man born blind, Palm Sunday

Knowing of God vs. knowing God. What'll it take to know Him? Suffering? 4 characters of lent all met Christ through suffering.

Am I a Christian who can only handle suffering? Imagine

When we recognize our need, and the urgency of our spiritual state, we don't need to be drowning in trouble to find him. We already recognize our need and can live in joy with Him.

When one has nothing, God becomes everything -Mama Maggie. They're smiling all the time, giving all the time, serving all the time.