

**From the second installment of The Supernatural Church series, with Steven Bowers, Executive Director.**

How many have heard the phrase, “I’m just a sinner saved by grace?”

In fact, who remembers these guys... The Gaither group had a very popular song of the same title. Now at one time I used to believe this cliché as well as I am sure some of you have. Whenever I sinned, or fell short, or disappointed God or others, I would say, “Well, you know, I’m just a sinner saved by grace.”

The phrase itself almost sounds like an excuse to sin.

Now to be fair, it’s pretty clear, in the Bible and through experience, that we all do still sin. Although we are saved by putting our total trust in what God has done for us through the death and resurrection of his Son, we are not, unfortunately, instantaneously made perfect, i.e., fully Christlike.

Unfortunately, we do sin, as John admits in his letter :

***1 John 2:1-2 (HCSB)***

***My little children, I am writing you these things so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father — Jesus Christ the Righteous One. 2 He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world.***

That's one of the great truths of the Gospel and it gets better as we are going to learn in this message...

We are in week 2 of the sermon series Pastor John started last week called "The Supernatural Church" which is based on the Book of Acts. When I think of the supernatural Church, I imagine nothing more supernatural than us moving from sinners who were the enemies of God according to Roman's 5:10 to becoming His beloved, heavenly saints.

### ***Romans 5:10 (HCSB)***

***10 For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, then how much more, having been reconciled, will we be saved by His life!***

But how many struggle with being called a saint? (You don't have to raise your hand). I admit that I have struggled with it and even rejected this notion, rationalizing, "No, I'm just a sinner saved by grace."

The problem with this notion is that it leads you and I away from living out our saintly identity and seems to give us permission to fail in our walk with Christ. Furthermore, this thinking detracts from Paul's instruction and God's great work in our lives as described in Philippians 2:12-13.

### ***Philippians 2:12-13 (NLT)***

***Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God***

***with deep reverence and fear. 13 For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him.***

So, does the Bible give us a clear answer on this? Are we Sinners saved by Grace or are we Saints who sometimes sin?

Now as I was researching and studying this topic, I started with defining what the word sinner and the word saint really means in its original language, who it is addressing when used in context and how it relates to us today.

This is truly the only way to understand what the Scriptures are conveying to us.

The Hebrew word for “sinner,” according to the Old Testament Hebrew Lexical Dictionary is, “Chatta” —which means sinners or sinful. The masculine noun that would be used to describe you and is “hatta”. It appears eighteen times in the Old Testament. It designates a habitual sinner who is subject to God’s wrath because of his or her practices.

Now we know as Christians that we are **not** habitual sinners who are subject to God’s wrath because 1 Thessalonians 5:9 tells us.

### ***1 Thessalonians 5:9***

***"For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,"***

The Greek word for sinner is **hamartolos**. The Greek-English Lexicon defines it as a person NOT free from sin or pre-eminently sinful and especially wicked.

And as Christians we know we are free from sin based on Romans 6:22 when Paul writes,

***22 But now that you have been set Free from sin and have become slaves to God***

It's important to note that the Greek word for sinner is **never** used to describe or identify a Christian in the New Testament.

And if you are a Christian sitting here today, it should never be used to describe you...

The English word **saint** comes from the Latin word **sanctus**, with the Greek equivalent being ἅγιος (**hagios**) - meaning 'sacred, holy or set apart'.

The New Testament uses this word *saint* or *saints* **67 times** and in every instance, the reference is referring to Christians.

Here are some examples...

**1 Corinthians 1:2 (HCSB)** To God's church at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus and called as **saints**, with all those in every place who call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord — both their Lord and ours.

**Romans 1:7 (HCSB)** To all who are in Rome, loved by God, called as **saints**. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Philippians 4:21-22** (HCSB) 1 Greet every **saint** in Christ Jesus. Those brothers who are with me greet you. 22 All the **saints** greet you, but especially those from Caesar's household.

So the moment you repented of your sin, the moment you turned from it and turned to Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, at that very moment you moved from being an enemy of God to His child, from a sinner saved by Grace to instantaneously becoming a saint.

Now understand this, it was not your doing, you didn't deserve it, you didn't do anything to earn it, it was a supernatural working of Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** (HCSB) 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, and look, new things have come.

This is one of those new things; **you** are a saint, not sometimes, not when you feel like it, not when you have it all together, right now **you are a saint according to the word of GOD!**

Now since you and I are saints, how should that propel us to act? I would say, well like a **saint**...

Saints are passionate about being part of God's Church...

- **Saints seek out there giftings and use them to serve one another, making the Church complete in all ministries.**
- **Romans 12:3-8.**

- **Saints are people of their time, they understand methods must change to reach the days culture, but the message never does. 1 Corinthians 9:22**
- **Saints are filled with a love for God and it propels them to love others. A love that consuls, edifies, encourages and challenges. Matthew 22:37-40**
- **Saints are risk takers, they move from their comfort zone to God's Courage zone so that He may be glorified. Proverbs 3:5-6**
- **Saints are prayer warriors. They are always praying for God's guidance, for their leaders, their Church and the lost/ 1Thessalonians 5:17**
- **Saints present themselves as living sacrifices. They are givers of their time, their talent and their treasure. Romans 12:1**
- **Saints are expectant in faith for the miraculous, knowing that God always works for the good of those who love the Lord. John 14:12**
- **Saints understand that grace doesn't just wash them of their sin, but also propels them to good works. James 2 14:17**

Now, as we close our service today there will be a couple of us up front. If you are struggling with acting out your sainthood or just struggling with the concept in general -- we would like to pray for

you...or if you don't know Jesus as your personal savior and want to make that first step today --we want to pray with you.

Please bow your heads..

*Father God, we are so thankful that you have called us while we were still sinners, that you made a way for us to be reconciled to You through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His Death and resurrection.*

*We are now indwelt by your holy spirit and called saints.*

*If anyone here has not committed their life to You today, can you speak to them and give them the strength to come forward to do so ...and if anyone here is struggling with their saintly identification would You nudge them to come forward and ask for prayer as well.*

*Lord, we thank You for the work you are doing in all our hearts and praise You for it, in Jesus name I pray Amen...*