

August 29, 2024

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

THE CALL TO BE HOLY

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Introduction / Context

Today’s reading is from St. Paul’s first letter to the Christian community at Corinth. He established this community about 51 A.D. on his second missionary journey. Corinth was a commercial seaport, a “melting pot” of different people and a place marked by moral depravity. Paul wrote this letter in about 56 A.D. to the men and women who had accepted the Good News of Christ and were trying to understand and live out the implications of their baptism.

Today's First Reading

Read the passage aloud, paying attention to words or phrases that resonate with you.

*Paul, called to be an Apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
and Sosthenes our brother,*

*to the Church of God that is in Corinth,
to you who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be holy,
with all those everywhere who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
their Lord and ours.*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*I give thanks to my God always on your account
for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus,
that in him you were enriched in every way,
with all discourse and all knowledge,
as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you,
so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift
as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*He will keep you firm to the end,
irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*God is faithful, and by him you were called
to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9

Reflection

In these opening lines of his letter, Paul emphasizes that God has taken the initiative— “you who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus” have been “called to be holy.” He assures the community that they have the “grace” they need to live the life they have been called to and that they do not “lack any spiritual gift.” He further assures them that “God is faithful” and will keep them “firm to the end.”

The call “to be holy” is a call to “fellowship with ... Jesus Christ our Lord” and it is a call to community “with all those everywhere who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours.”

Paul refers to his part in their call when he describes himself as “an Apostle of Christ Jesus” and he acknowledges that his “testimony to Christ was confirmed” and enriched “with discourse and knowledge.”

Without going into detail, Paul implies that answering the call and following Christ will have its ups and downs and that the Corinthian community can count on Jesus to keep them “firm,” grounded, steady “to the end.”



Man Praying in Church in Sunlight
Photo by Photo by Paulo Márcio Dos Santo

For Pondering

- When did you experience a call to follow Christ?
 - What is your sense of being called “to be holy”?
 - How do you experience God’s faithfulness in the ups and downs of life?
-

For Prayer

*Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,
my memory, my understanding, and my entire will,
all that I have and call my own.*

*You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it.
Do with it as you will, according to your good pleasure.
Give me your love and your grace; for with this I have all that I need.
Amen.*

ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

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