

If I really wish to become holy there are two things that I must remember, and consider. The first point that I must have clearly set in my mind is that God wants me to be holy. I must come to understand that there never was and never will be a man born who was not designed by God to be a saint. God's plan for each human being is sanctity, beatitude, union with Himself in heaven, perfect vision, perfect love, perfect happiness. This fulfillment is beyond anything that is due to nature or imaginable by nature. It is beyond everything our minds can grasp.

Why is it that men do not become saints? It certainly is not because God does not give us the grace to reach sanctity. It is because we neglect the grace He is always trying to give us. In order to become saints we have only to desire sanctity with an effective desire - a desire that embraces the God-given means to that end. "And everyone who has this hope in Him (i.e. sanctity) makes himself holy, just as He also is Holy." (1 JN. 3:3)

God has already done His part to make this ideal the most practical and possible thing in the world. It is available to absolutely everyone. It is to sanctify us that God sent His only-begotten Son into the world: "This is the will of God - - your sanctification." Therefore, the sufficient reason for this enormous demand made upon us is given to us by God, Himself, briefly and finally: "You shall be holy because I am Holy." How other people answer this call to holiness IS NOT MY BUSINESS! I must learn to look after my own answer to the call and I must STOP making guesses at what my neighbor is doing about his call.

I must NOT WAIT before answering God's call - to respond to God's grace. I must not take the very serious chance St. Augustine took when he asked to wait before answering his call. He took a real risk. I can go on saying 'not yet' for so long that I will come to forget what it was that I am praying for. In the same way I can go on saying: 'I am not big enough and strong enough to take it on,' for so long that I will come eventually to believe it - - and then, of course, I will cease to feel the urge to take it on. IT HAS TO BE NOW, and it has to be BY GOD'S GRACE. God, it is, Who gives me the strength to do all things. I have always to remember, however, when God says NOW - - I have to act NOW!

But I continue to argue: is that not impossible? YES! Yes, it is impossible to attain the infinite degree of God's holiness; but not impossible, however, to share the divine holiness. And this is what we are commanded: our command is - and it is a command - to be holy in the manner that God is Holy. The ideal