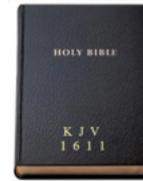


Mt. Pleasant
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The Bible Truth

Privileges Of The Church Saint



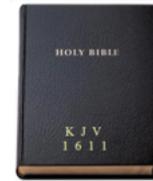
Privileges Of The Church Saint

- Throughout history, the saints of God are always the most blessed and privileged people in the world
- Whether OT saint or NT saint, the saved are the benefactors of a personal relationship with the one true living God during this life and the hope of a far better life with him after this one is over
- But NT saints during the church dispensation (i.e.- the church saints), especially those in the last days, have unprecedented privileges beyond being the first to be called “Christians” (Acts 11:26)
- As the world gets worse and worse, it would do our hearts good to remind ourselves of these privileges, give the Lord thanks for them, and take advantage of them in our service to the Lord

1) The Privilege Of The SCRIPTURES

- Throughout history all men have had access to the general revelation of God in the CREATION (Psa 19:1-3; Rom 1:20) and in their CONSCIENCE (Rom 1:19; 2:15)
- General revelation is given to all people equally at all times, reveals the PRESENCE and POWER of God, and serves the purpose to CONDEMN man

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- God also used various forms of special revelation to reveal his will to men
- Special revelation is given to specific people at various times and various ways (Heb 1:1-2), reveals the PERSONALITY and PLAN of God, and serves the purpose to CONVERT man

VARIOUS FORMS OF SPECIAL REVELATION

- 1) An audible voice (Gen 2:16-17; 3:9; 12:1; Exo 3:4-10; 20:1-17; 1 Kin 19:11-13; Matt 17:5)
- 2) Visions (Gen 15:1; Dan 7:1-2; 8:1)
- 3) Dreams (Gen 20:3; 28:12; 37:5-8; 1 Sam 28:6; Matt 1:20)
- 4) The angel of the Lord or angels (Gen 19:1; 32:24-30; Jud 13:3-5; Luke 1:11-20,26-38)
- 5) The Urim and Thummim that were in the breastplate of the ephod (Exo 28:30; Num 27:21; 1 Sam 23:9; 28:6; 30:7)
- 6) The prophets (1 Sam 28:6; Heb 1:1)
- 7) Jesus Christ (i.e.- the CROWN of divine revelation) (John 1:14; 14:9; Col 2:9; Heb 1:2)
- 8) The scriptures (i.e.- the COMPLETION of divine revelation) (Psa 19:7; 1 Cor 13:10; 2 Pet 1:3-4,17-21)

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1 Sam 28:6

And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.

Heb 1:1-2

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,
2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

2 Pet 1:17-20

17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

- The scriptures are a MORE SURE word than the Lord speaking audibly from heaven (2 Pet 1:17-20) because the words of God are put in writing
- When something is put in writing it is binding and can be referenced in the event someone forgot what was said or may have misunderstood what was said

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1. The scriptures are the PERFECT (i.e.- complete) revelation of God

Psa 19:7

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple.

1 Cor 13:10

But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

2 Pet 1:3-4,19-21

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

- PERFECT= “complete; finished; consummate”



Privileges Of The Church Saint

- The scriptures were given by God over the course of 1500-2000 years, depending on the date of the book of Job
- While the OT saints had access to the revelation of God through divers manners (Heb 1:1) including all or part of the OT, they did not have access to the complete canon of scripture
- The canon of scripture was completed around 96 AD with the book of Revelation and consists of 66 books= 22 (# of divine REVELATION) x 3 (# of divine COMPLETION)
- Since the completion of the scriptures, all other forms of special revelation have ceased, except the Lord Jesus Christ of course, who is the Word made flesh
- With the completion of the scriptures, the church saints are the first to have access to a single source that constitutes the PERFECT revelation of God
- The scriptures are not a PIECE of divine revelation but the PERFECTION (i.e.- completion) of divine revelation
- Everything that we need to know and everything the Lord wants us to know is contained in the scriptures (i.e.- if it isn't in the Bible, then it is not something we must know)
- The WILL of God is completely revealed in the WORD of God

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2. The scriptures are a PURE revelation

Psa 12:6-7

6 The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.
7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

Psa 119:140

Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.

Pro 30:5

Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

- PURE= “incorrupt; free from defilement; without spot”
- The Lord could have written his word in the heavens or on a mountain range, or on a scroll and hand delivered to Moses, David, or one of the prophets or apostles, but he chose to use men as instruments of transmitting his written word
- Since all men, even holy men of God (2 Pet 1:21), are frail, faulty sinners, the miracle of divine INSPIRATION ensured that the word of God retained its perfection and purity during transmission

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2 Tim 3:16

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2 Pet 1:19-21

19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

- The result is 66 books that reflect the distinct personality and writing style of the human writer, and yet every word is the perfectly pure word of God

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3. The scriptures are a PRESERVED revelation

Psa 12:6-7

6 The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.
7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, **thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.**

Matt 24:35

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but **my words shall not pass away.**

1 Pet 1:23-25

23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

25 But **the word of the Lord endureth for ever.** And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

- PRESERVE= “to keep or defend from corruption; to uphold; to sustain; the act of keeping safe from injury, destruction, or decay in the original state; to protect; to keep alive or intact; to keep and reserve for personal or special use”



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- Since all men, even holy men of God (2 Pet 1:21), are frail, faulty sinners, the promise of divine PRESERVATION ensures that the inspired word of God retains its perfection and purity during transcription and translation
- The word of God that saves the souls of men (i.e.- the INCORRUPTIBLE seed) (Rom 10:17; 1 Pet 1:23) is NEAR to all who need it (Rom 10:8), it is not HIDDEN in some Middle Eastern cave, or just in HEAVEN (Deu 30:11-13)- it must be available and understandable so any and all can HEAR it and HEED it (Deu 30:14)

Rom 10:8,17

8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Deu 30:11-14

11 For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off.

12 It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?

13 Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?

14 But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.

Privileges Of The Church Saint



- How could we “take... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Eph 6:17) if the word of God was only in the non-existent original writings?
- The redeemed in heaven come from “EVERY kindred, and TONGUE, and people, and nation” (Rev 5:9; 7:9)
- That means every soul in heaven had access to the inspired word of God in a language they could understand; it may not have been a complete Bible, but it was enough scripture for them to get saved- no soul will be lost because he/she did not have access to the inspired scriptures in a language they could understand

Rev 5:9-10

9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Rev 7:9-10

9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.



Privileges Of The Church Saint

- The church saints in the very last days also have unprecedented technology at their disposal to expand the time spent reading and studying the scriptures and expedite results from that reading and study
- These tools expose us to more divine ILLUMINATION that will exponentially increase the knowledge of the scriptures in the last days (Dan 12:4)
- Abraham, Moses, Samuel, David, Elijah, Peter, James, John, and Paul did not have access to what we have today

Privileges Of The Church Saint



2) The Privilege Of The SPIRIT

- The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead and as such is omnipresent, but he had, and has, a special presence and relationship with the saints of God

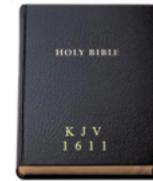
THE OT MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- 1) The Holy Spirit temporarily came UPON OT saints to EMPOWER them
 - To prophesy (preach) (Num 11:25; 24:2; 1 Sam 10:10; 19:23; 1 Chr 12:18; 2 Chr 15:1-2; 20:14-15; 24:20)
 - To render judgment (Num 11:25; Jud 3:10)
 - To fight and defeat the enemy in battle (Jud 6:34; 14:19)
 - To perform supernatural feats of strength (Jud 14:6,19; 15:14-15; 1 Sam 11:6-7) cf. (Acts 1:8; 2:4)
 - To signify divine approval (1 Sam 16:13,18)

Num 11:25

And the LORD came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, *that*, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease.

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Jud 3:10

And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the LORD delivered Chushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushan-rishathaim.

Jud 6:34

But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abi-ezer was gathered after him.

Jud 14:6,19

6 And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.

19 And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father's house.

Jud 15:14-15

14 And when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and the cords that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands.

15 And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith.

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1 Sam 10:10

And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and **the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied** among them.

1 Sam 16:13,18

13 Then **Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him** in the midst of his brethren: and **the Spirit of the LORD came upon David** from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

18 Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Beth-lehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and **the LORD is with him.**

1 Chr 12:18

Then **the spirit came upon Amasai**, who was chief of the captains, **and he said**, Thine are we, David, and on thy side, thou son of Jesse: peace, peace be unto thee, and peace be to thine helpers; for thy God helpeth thee. Then David received them, and made them captains of the band.

2 Chr 20:14-15

14 **Then upon Jahaziel** the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, **came the Spirit of the LORD** in the midst of the congregation;

15 **And he said**, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.

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2) The Holy Spirit temporarily came WITHIN OT saints to INSPIRE them (Neh 9:30; Isa 63:11; 1 Pet 1:11)

Neh 9:30

Yet many years didst thou forbear them, and testifiedst against them by thy spirit in thy prophets: yet would they not give ear: therefore gavest thou them into the hand of the people of the lands.

Isa 63:11

Then he remembered the days of old, Moses, and his people, saying, Where is he that brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of his flock? where is he that put his holy Spirit within him?

1 Pet 1:11

Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

- The Holy Spirit's presence and relationship with the OT saint whereby he came UPON them and WITHIN them was TEMPORARY, even for a man after God's own heart

Psa 51:11

Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.



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- The Christian does not need to pray this prayer because the Holy Spirit's presence and relationship with the church saint is PERMANENT
 - The Holy Spirit is the PROMISE (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4; 2:33,39; Gal 3:14) and THE GIFT (Acts 2:38; 10:45) of the Father to those who receive his Son as their Savior
 - The moment we receive Jesus Christ by faith as our Savior, we RECEIVE the Holy Spirit in a permanent, two-fold manner
1. We are permanently BAPTIZED (i.e.- ANOINTED) with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5,8; 2:3-4,17-18; 10:38,44-45,47; 11:15-17)- this is the Spirit's eternal POWER in our lives
 - There are two different spiritual baptisms associated with the Holy Spirit that are one time eternal events, that take place the moment we get saved
 - (1) The Holy Spirit baptizes the born again believer into Christ making him a part of the body of Christ, the church (1 Cor 12:13)
 - (2) Jesus Christ baptizes the born again believer with the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:8)



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1 Cor 12:13

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Mark 1:8

I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

- Being baptized with the Holy Spirit is the NT equivalent of the Holy Spirit coming UPON the believer, only it is permanent
- Being BAPTIZED with the Holy Ghost= being ANOINTED with the Holy Ghost= the Holy Ghost coming UPON the believer= the Holy Ghost FALLING ON the believer

Luke 24:49

And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

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Acts 1:4-5,8

4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for **the promise of the Father**, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

5 For John truly baptized with water; but **ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost** not many days hence.

8 But **ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you**: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 2:4,17

4 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and **it sat upon** each of them.

17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, **I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh**: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

Acts 10:38,44-45,47

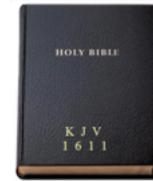
38 How God **anointed** Jesus of Nazareth **with the Holy Ghost and with power**: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

44 While Peter yet spake these words, **the Holy Ghost fell on all them** which heard the word.

45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was **poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost**.

47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have **received the Holy Ghost** as well as we?

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Acts 11:15-17

15 And as I began to speak, **the Holy Ghost fell on them**, as on us at the beginning.

16 Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be **baptized with the Holy Ghost**.

17 Forasmuch then as **God gave them the like gift** as *he did* unto us, **who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ**; what was I, that I could withstand God?

PURPOSE FOR THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1) To provide the Christian with permanent POWER to live the Christian life and serve the Lord (e.g.- he imparts spiritual gifts to every believer) (Rom 12:6-8; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Eph 4:11)

1 Cor 12:4-7

4 Now **there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit**.

5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

7 But **the manifestation of the Spirit is given** to every man to profit withal.

2) To place the Christian in the permanent three-fold POSITION of prophet (Acts 1:8; 19:10), priest, and king (1 Pet 2:9; Rev 1:5-6; 5:10; 20:6)



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- In the OT, whenever someone was anointed into one of the three offices of prophet, priest, or king, they were anointed with OIL into that office (usually by a priest)
- We are not anointed with oil, which is a type of the Holy Spirit, but with the HOLY SPIRIT himself (1 John 2:27)

1 John 2:27

But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

- As a prophet, we proclaim the word of God in our witness for Jesus Christ; as a priest, we offer up spiritual sacrifices (Heb 13:15-16; 1 Pet 2:5); and as a king, we shall reign with him (Rev 5:10; 20:6)

Acts 1:8

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Rev 19:10

And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

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1 Pet 2:5,9

5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Rev 1:5-6

5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Rev 5:9-10

9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Rev 20:6

Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

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2. We are permanently INDWELT by the Holy Spirit- this is the Spirit's eternal PRESENCE in our lives

John 14:16-17

16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

- Being INDWELT by the Holy Spirit= to be SEALED and SECURED with the Holy Spirit
- Just as the Holy Spirit is THE ANOINTING upon us so he is THE SEAL within us

2 Cor 1:21-22

21 Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God;

22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

Eph 1:13-14

13 In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

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Eph 4:30

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

- EARNEST= “a security deposit made in a major transaction that demonstrates that the buyer is serious and willing to complete the transaction at a future date; a token; a pledge; evidence; collateral; something of value given by a buyer to a seller to bind a bargain; a token of what is to come; eager or desirous to obtain; serious”
- The moment we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, we received the indwelling Spirit and he is the EARNEST and the SEAL of our salvation
- This fact supports the doctrine of the ETERNAL SECURITY of the believer
- In order for a Christian to lose their salvation, someone has to break the seal and nothing we can do or Satan can do can break the Holy Spirit of God because greater is he that is IN us than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4)
- The Holy Spirit taking up permanent residence within us makes us bodies the HOUSE or TEMPLE of God

1 Cor 3:16-17

16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

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1 Cor 6:19

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

- The NT ministry of the indwelling Spirit is manifold

THE MINISTRY OF THE INDWELLING SPIRIT TO THE CHRISTIAN

- 1) He enables us to worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24; Phl 3:3)
- 2) He quenches our spiritual thirst (John 7:38-39)
- 3) He comforts us (John 14:16,26; 15:26; 16:7)
- 4) He teaches us all things and illuminates us to the scriptures (John 14:26; 1 Cor 2:11-13)
- 5) He brings all things to our remembrance from the word of God (John 14:26)
- 6) He guides us into all truth (John 16:13) and leads us (Rom 8:14)
- 7) He shows us things to come (John 16:14)
- 8) He glorifies Jesus Christ (John 16:14)
- 9) He gives us assurance of our salvation (Rom 8:16)
- 10) He enables us to pray (Eph 6:18; Jude 1:20) and intercedes for us in prayer (Rom 8:26)
- 11) He fills us with boldness (Acts 4:31), hope, joy, and peace (Rom 14:17; 15:13)
- 12) He fills us and enables us to bear spiritual fruit (Gal 5:22-23; Eph 5:18)

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John 14:26

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 16:13-14

13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

Rom 8:26

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Acts 2:4

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

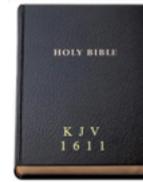
Eph 5:18

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Gal 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.



Privileges Of The Church Saint

- Being FILLED with the Spirit is based on the will of the believer not the will of God- it is the Lord's will that every believer be continuously filled with the Spirit (John 7:38-39)
- We do not need more of the Holy Spirit to be filled, he needs more of us
- Christians are called the SONS OF GOD (John 1:12; 1 John 3:1-2) as was Adam (Luke 3:38) and the angels (Gen 6:2; Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7) cf. (2 Pet 2:4; Jude 1:6)
- Adam and the angels are called sons of God because they were created directly by God and did not come into existence by procreation, and Christians are the sons of God because our new nature is a direct creation from God (Col 3:10) and not the result of some other means (John 1:13)
- The big difference is that God has chosen to PERSONALLY dwell within the Christian, and dwell within him forever- he did not do this with angels, Adam, or any OT saint
- We have the privilege of the omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent Creator, Sustainer, and Savior living inside of us 24/7/365 both now and forever; and he never slumbers or sleeps (Psa 121:4), and will never leave us or forsake us (Heb 13:8)
- He is in complete CONTROL and CARES for us (John 16:27; Rom 5:8; 1 Pet 5:7)

Privileges Of The Church Saint



3) The Privilege Of SALVATION

- All saints are saved by grace through faith, have their sins forgiven, and will never come under eternal condemnation
- But the salvation of the NT church saint is unprecedented in at least three particulars

1. We have a better LIFE

- We are the first to experience the new birth and be BORN AGAIN

John 3:3,7

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born again**, he cannot see **the kingdom of God**.

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, **Ye must be born again**.

1 Pet 1:23

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

Privileges Of The Church Saint



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Rom 8:23

And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

Jam 1:18

Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

- The new birth involves the impartation of a new nature created in the image of God, that DELIGHTS in the word of God and CANNOT sin

Col 3:10

And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

Rom 7:22

For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

1 John 3:9

Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.



Privileges Of The Church Saint

- Eternal life is a no longer a PROSPECTIVE possession but a PRESENT one
- The spiritual kingdom of God, which is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost (Rom 14:17), is not just something we look forward to in heaven or our eternal future, but something we can experience right now, every day of our Christian lives
- This privilege, along with the privileges of the perfect, pure, and preserved scriptures and the eternally abiding and indwelling Holy Spirit, enable the church saint to have a more ABUNDANT life

1 John 5:11-13

11 And this is the record, that **God hath given to us eternal life**, and this life is in his Son.

12 **He that hath the Son hath life**; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

13 These things have I written unto **you that believe on the name of the Son of God**; that ye may **know that ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

John 10:10

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that **they might have life**, and that **they might have it more abundantly**.



Privileges Of The Church Saint

- If we ever envy the apparent state of the wicked or complain about our own state, we need to remember the privilege of our salvation and all that comes with it because we above all people in history are MOST BLESSED

Psa 73:1-3,5,12-14,16-19,21-25

- 1 Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart.
- 2 But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped.
- 3 For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
- 5 They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men.
- 12 Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches.
- 13 Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency.
- 14 For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning.
- 16 When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me;
- 17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.
- 18 Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction.
- 19 How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.
- 21 Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins.
- 22 So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee.
- 23 Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand.
- 24 Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.
- 25 Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.

Privileges Of The Church Saint



2. We have a better DEATH

- When OT saints died, they died IN FAITH and were present with Abraham in paradise, a place of comfort, peace, and rest across from hell in the heart of the earth

Heb 11:13,39-40

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

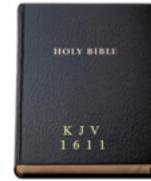
Luke 16:22-23

22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

Luke 23:43

And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.



Privileges Of The Church Saint

- OT saints could not go directly to heaven when they died because their sins were only temporarily COVERED by the blood of bulls and goats and not TAKEN AWAY yet by the blood of Jesus

Heb 10:4,10-12

4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

John 1:29

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Heb 9:26

For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Privileges Of The Church Saint



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- When the NT church saint gets saved, we are washed in the blood of Jesus and all of our sins are **TAKEN AWAY**

Tit 3:5

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by **the washing of regeneration**, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Heb 10:22

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and **our bodies washed with pure water**.

Rev 1:5

And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and **washed us from our sins in his own blood**,

1 John 3:5

And ye know that **he was manifested to take away our sins**; and in him is no sin.

- Consequently, when we die, we die **IN CHRIST** and are immediately present with the Lord in the third heaven

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2 Cor 5:8

We are confident, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

2 Cor 12:2

I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.

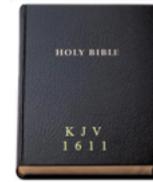
- The Lord has removed the STING of death (1 Cor 15:55) and relegated it to a mere SHADOW (Psa 23:4)
- As we near death, the Lord's eternal presence takes on a whole new meaning as he gives us special (dying) grace and comfort that abolishes all fear
- Our death is precious in the sight of the Lord and he is with us all the way as we make that transition from this life to the next

Psa 23:4

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Psa 116:15

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.



Privileges Of The Church Saint

- Death is likened to SLEEP (Psa 13:3), so the transition from this life to the next is as simple and seamless as waking up out of sleep

Psa 13:3

Consider *and* hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death;

- We have no trouble coming out of sleep and getting up, especially if we are looking forward to the day ahead
- Children aren't excited about getting up out of bed when they have to go to school, but if it's Christmas morning or they are going to the amusement park, they leap out of bed
- We have so much more to look forward to in heaven and all of it will become more real than ever when the time of death approaches
- We will not "wake up" on our own but will be "awakened" by the Lord himself

Job 14:14-15

14 If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.
15 Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.



Privileges Of The Church Saint

- As we make that transition, we will see the face of our Savior for the first time and rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory

Psa 17:15

As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

1 Pet 1:8

Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

- As much as we love our families and friends and would not otherwise want to leave them, there will be no conflict or debate within us when the time comes to go be with the Lord
- The sting of death is not only removed for the one going to be with the Lord, but also for the loved ones in the Lord who remain
- Since our loved ones know where we are, they have not technically “lost” us
- They also know that all of our pain, suffering, and affliction is over forever; and have the promise that they will see us again and be with us forever

Privileges Of The Church Saint



1 The 4:13-18

13 But **I would not have you to be ignorant**, brethren, **concerning them which are asleep**, **that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope**.

14 For **if we believe that Jesus died and rose again**, even so **them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him**.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then **we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them** in the clouds, **to meet the Lord** in the air: and **so shall we ever be with the Lord**.

18 Wherefore **comfort one another with these words**.

- When we die, it is like one member of the family leaving for a vacation destination ahead of the rest- we know where they are going, and that we will meet up with them soon, but we are temporarily separated from each other
- That separation may seem long to those who remain, but it is no more than yesterday to our departed loved ones in the Lord (Psa 90:4; 2 Pet 3:8)

Note: If 1,000 years is like 1 day (24 hours), then 100 years is like 2 hours and 24 minutes, 50 years is 1 hour and 12 minutes, and 25 years is like 36 minutes.

- Death for the child of God is never “goodbye” but truly is, “see you soon”

Privileges Of The Church Saint



3. We have a better HOPE

- All saints have possessed the hope (i.e.- “certainty in waiting”) of RESURRECTION; that the Lord would one day raise the dead to live again

Acts 23:6

But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men *and* brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question.

Acts 24:15

And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.

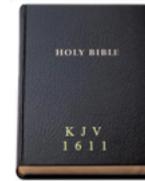
Acts 26:6-8

6 And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers:

7 Unto which promise our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, hope to come. For which hope’s sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews.

8 Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?

- Martha confessed the hope of a resurrection day after Lazarus died (John 11:24)



Privileges Of The Church Saint

John 11:23-24

23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

- The church saint also possesses this hope but we also have a BETTER hope (Heb 7:19)
- This hope is that we might be alive on the earth at the time of the Rapture and never have to taste physical death

John 11:25-26

25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

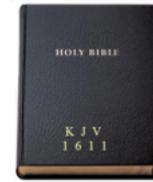
26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

1 The 4:16-17

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Privileges Of The Church Saint



1 Cor 15:50-57

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; **We shall not all sleep**, but **we shall all be changed**,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and **the dead shall be raised incorruptible**, and **we shall be changed**.

53 For **this corruptible must put on incorruption**, and **this mortal must put on immortality**.

54 So when **this corruptible shall have put on incorruption**, and **this mortal shall have put on immortality**, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

55 O death, where is thy sting? **O grave**, where is thy victory?

56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 11:25-26	1 Cor 15:54-55	1 The 4:16-17
The resurrection He that believeth in me Though he were dead, yet shall he live	This corruptible must put on incorruption O grave	The dead in Christ
The life Whosoever liveth and believeth in me Shall never die	This mortal must put on immortality O death	We which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord



Privileges Of The Church Saint

- This hope is our BLESSED hope (Tit 2:13) and it purifies us (1 John 3:2-3)

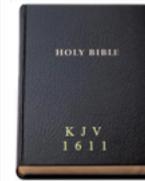
Tit 2:13
Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

1 John 3:2-3

2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

- It is appointed unto men once to die (Heb 9:27) but our appointment with death will be cancelled if the Lord comes back before the day of the appointment
- There have been only two men who have left this world without ever dying, Enoch and Elijah, and only Elijah appears to have know about it in advance (2 Kin 2:3,5,9-10)
- Elijah is coming back as one of the two witnesses that is killed in the Tribulation (Rev 11:3-7), so only the church saint that is alive at the Rapture will never taste of death and have the privilege of that hope all his Christian life
- With the privilege of the scriptures, the Spirit, and salvation we above all people are most blessed



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