All believers are saints, not just a select few
(Based on Chapter 28 of *Costly Grace*)

The Big Idea
We become saints, not by the things we do, but by the one in whom we believe.

Biblical Foundation
Now that the time for faith is here, the Law is no longer in charge of us. It is through faith that all of you are God's children in union with Christ Jesus. You were baptized into union with Christ, and now you are clothed, so to speak, with the life of Christ himself.
Galatians 3:26-27 (TEV)

The bloody work and empty tomb of Jesus makes us saints as he cleanses us from our unrighteousness. Our saintliness is present from the moment we believe in Jesus. But the evidence of our saintliness emerges as we follow Jesus along the hard path through the narrow gate into the kingdom of heaven.

Why is it difficult to mature in Jesus if we don't believe we have been cleansed from our sins? Why is it difficult to mature in Jesus if we think we really aren't all that bad ("Maybe God just overreacted to our sins")?

The apostle Paul says we must experience a moment when we are broken and humbled, where we say, "I can't make myself into a saint." This is the only way we can then believe with absolute certainty that Jesus can and will transform us into saints.

We tend to think that there are two tiers to Christianity. Sainthood for those who want to be fanatical about the commands of Jesus and a sort of "okay-anity" for the rest of us who are satisfied just trying to be good people. But Jesus will have none of that.

Paul coined the term "Christ in you" to describe this supernatural union between you and Jesus (Colossians 1:27). What does he mean by "Christ in you"?

The Bible says, as believers, we share in the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4). What does that mean? Do you believe you have a choice to no longer sin? (Romans 7:20) How do you choose not to sin?

Discuss this question by Oswald Chambers: "Do you not want to be a saint, or do you not believe God can make you one?"