

On a Mission

The Apostleship of Saint Paul

Have you ever dreamed of becoming a missionary, a hard working servant of the Lord, or simply living a life of joy having a good relationship with God? Every youth dreams to grow closer to God and say proudly with Saint Paul the apostle: “it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.” (Galatians 2:20) As I think about the life of Saint Paul, the key to his successful spiritual life becomes clear. It was truly the power of the Holy Spirit in his life that guided him to live as Christ lived. The life of Saint Paul can be a great example for youth who are struggling in this world to maintain a good relationship with God. He was not born a saint but a regular human like us; however, through the guid-

ance of the Holy Spirit, he became a saint. So, brethren, let us take a small journey through the life of St. Paul and learn how we also can abide in Christ.

When St. Paul finally went to Jerusalem to start his service, he found himself rejected, “when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple.” (Acts 9:26) Despite feeling rejected, he did not stop serving or preaching the name of

Christ. He was strengthened by the Holy Spirit and “he spoke boldly in the Name of the Lord Jesus.” (Acts 9:29) You may not be an intellectual or well thought of in your family circle, you may even be despised by others for your faith, but remember that those who are rejected of men are often beloved of the Lord. Allow the Holy Spirit inside you to comfort and strengthen you like St. Paul did.

St. Paul started his mission talking about the Christ he knew. Led by the Holy Spirit, his words were powerful, penetrating the hearts of his audience. As Father Matthew the Poor commented, “Words in Saint Paul are sometimes like pointed spears which are very difficult to escape, because it is the Spirit who aims and hurls them. For the Word of God in St. Paul is sharpened by the Spirit of God. It pierces the dividing line between soul and spirit, penetrating even the marrow of one’s bones. It exposes, lays bare and reproves sin - then binds up [the wounds].” More-

over, the fact that millions of people submit to the guidance of St. Paul’s words is in itself a testimony to the Holy Spirit taking hold of St. Paul’s spirit and filling his mind with those words. Our lives are transformed the same way when we allow the Holy Spirit to work in us. Not only do our words become powerful, but our lives become a shining light to others as well.

“We must first listen for and hear the voice of the Holy Spirit inside us. This is the foundation of our spiritual life...”

of the Holy Spirit, he carried out his second missionary journey from 51 to 54 AD. He initially visited the churches that he had founded in Asia Minor, and then he crossed over to Macedonia, where he founded congregations in Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea. In 55 AD St. Paul left for Jerusalem, visiting Ephesus and Caesaria, and from Jerusalem he went to Antioch. After a short stay in Antioch, Saint Paul undertook his third missionary journey from 56 to 58 AD, initially visiting churches in Asia Minor that had founded on earlier trips, then stopping at Ephesus, where he preached daily for two years in the school of Tyrannus. (Acts 13-28)

From the journeys of St. Paul we learn many great lessons. In particular, we as youth can learn perseverance. St. Paul was able to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit guiding him to where he needed to go. Also, as

