

God Believes in You
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Horticulturalist Luther Burbank once said, *“Every weed is a potential flower.”* God says, *“Every person is a potential saint.”*

Did you ever notice that some of the people found in the Bible don't seem to belong in religious circles or were considered outcasts in society at that time?

And yet many of them were friends of Jesus and he seemed to be perfectly at home with them. I believe the name that fits Christ best is “Friend of sinners.” Why? He always saw the best in a person. He saw it in Mary Magdalene, Zacchaeus, his early disciples and countless others.

His offer of love is not given on the basis of good works, outstanding talent, or family ancestry. “But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners,” (Romans 5:8 NLT).

Christ's attitude was so different from society today. Too often people are ready to believe the worst about us and some even spend time looking for it. This means that many times we are afraid to be completely honest with anyone. We are not sure whom we can trust. We fear that if people knew the real us, we would be rejected rather than loved.

But God already knows, and He can be trusted with everything. His penetrating eye uncovers our inner selves with every weakness, failure and secret laid bare. Surely there is sin in our hearts that needs forgiveness. In various ways, we have all messed up our lives and fallen short of our best. Therefore, we may think God is ready to condemn us and cast us from his holy presence forever.

But this is the wonder of His love. He loves and accepts us as we are, but his love for us is too great to stop there. He also sees who we can become by his grace and he wants us to bear the family likeness of his son. As we become more like Christ, we discover our true selves — the persons God created us to be.

If you are a fallen sinner, God sees you as forgiven. If you are lost, God sees you as found and part of his fold. If you are timid, God sees you as courageous. If you feel like a failure, God sees you as a success. If you are insecure, God sees you as competent. When people came to Christ humbly conscious of their own failure and need, he never turned anyone away.

Yes, God believes in us. If only we can learn to believe in Him, what a difference it can make. Let us respond by placing our faith in Him so that his faith in us maybe realized.