

Saint Thekla, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2022 Alexandra Houck. Email is orthodoxchildrensword (at) gmail.com. Find it each week at myocn.net.

The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

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Christ lives in me!

What is the most amazing thing you have ever done? Have you tried really hard at something—and it showed? At school? On a team? At a special project? Even as a kid, you might have done something you've been really proud of.



How do we do great things?

We all know about Saint Paul, don't we? He was one of the most important saints of the Christian Church. After Jesus Christ died on the Cross and rose from the dead, Saint Paul was one of Christ's followers who spent the rest of his life spreading the word about our Lord. And he was successful too! Many, many people began to follow Christ after Saint Paul told them about God.

But in the epistle today, Saint Paul shows how all these great accomplishments weren't *his*. They were God's! That's because God was working in Paul. Saint Paul wrote, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me." So whenever he did something great, Paul knew it really happened because Christ lived in him.

When *we* do good things too, we can think about how God is working in us. We can even ask our Lord to use us to do good things—like He used Saint Paul to do great things in his life too! Ask your parents or your priest to help you find a special prayer you can say whenever you start a new project.

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Apostle
- Bible
- Epistle
- Faith
- Prayer
- Prison
- Saint Paul
- Strength
- Thekla
- Working

E L L M P A P N W C D T B U S
 W P S F L N O K T N K F B P N
 B Z I K Q S N L V I A N B K M
 B F E S I K E Z D O R S H R K
 A H L R T R U T B T H X Q F U
 T T P V P L S A I N T P A U L
 H X P D J N E J V F Q C M V U
 D T H C U E R Q G G Y J B W A
 L H I U B L M U R K K I O I R
 K Q P A X B P N H M Q R S F M
 J L S U F I R W E E K F Q S V
 B V P O K B A X F I W M Q O P
 X R M H L P Y O N D V X Z V F
 A P O S T L E G Y F T F R N O
 X I M V G J R H T G N E R T S

WHAT'S IN AN ICON?

Saint Thekla visited Saint Paul when he was in prison. She even had to pay the guards with gold so they would let her see him!

Can you find Saint Paul's chains in this icon?



SAINT THEKLA EQUAL TO THE APOSTLES

Can you name all the apostles? You know Saints Peter and Paul. You know Saint John, Jesus's friend. Maybe you can list even more. But did you know our holy Orthodox Church calls some other saints "equal to the apostles," even if they lived much later on? Saint Nina lived 300 years later. Saints Constantine and Helen lived 300 years after Christ. Saint Cosmas lived almost 1,800 years after Him.



Saint Thekla learned about Christ from Saint Paul, and she even visited him when he was locked up in prison. Thekla took Saint Paul's words to heart, and she really wanted to follow Christ (and not to just talk about it!) Thekla's mother wanted her daughter to get married to a pagan man, but Thekla said she wanted to focus her life on Christ only. Her mother was angry with her and even wanted to have her punished, but Thekla was old enough to make the right decision.

Thekla spent the rest of her life telling others about Christ. People were cruel to her and even hurt her many times, but Thekla just wouldn't give up. She lived to be over 90 years old.

Saint Thekla is a much-loved saint all over the world, but especially in the Middle East. There, many little Christian girls are baptized with the name "Thekla." There is also a beautiful women's monastery in Syria that is built near where she lived in a cave.

We celebrate St. Thekla on Saturday, Sept. 24th (OC: October 7th).