

***Brief Review***

- The Holy Spirit is the 3rd person of the Holy Trinity. (The Trinity is comprised of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.)
- We are reminded of the Holy Trinity, when we make the sign of the cross.
- The Holy Spirit is also known as the Paraclete, the Comforter, and the Spirit of truth that comes from the Father. (John 15:26)

***Gifts of the Holy Spirit***

In Chapter 11 of the Book of Isaiah, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are described. In the passage, the gifts are considered ones that the Messiah would have possessed. (Read Isaiah 11:1-3)

**WE** are the church, the people of God. We make up the body of Christ here on earth. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to us at our confirmation to build up the body of Christ here on earth. Through Jesus and through the anointing of the bishop, we receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. We are each bestowed with very special gifts of body, mind and spirit throughout our lives. Through prayer and God's grace, we can use these gifts to bring love, growth and hope to those we meet.

The 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit are:

Wisdom  
Understanding  
Knowledge  
Counsel  
Fortitude  
Piety  
and Fear of the Lord

***Wisdom***

- First and highest among the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Practicality that helps a person see and evaluate all things from God's point of view
- To judge and order things in accord with divine norms
- Gift of contemplation of divine things
- With this gift, even an "uneducated soul" can possess profound knowledge of the divine

***Understanding***

- Helps a person grasp truths of faith easily and intimately
- Gift of "penetrating intuition", moving beyond the surface

- Gives great confidence in the revealed word of God and helps reach true conclusions from these revelations
- Inspires us to walk in a way pleasing to God

***Knowledge***

- Enables a person to judge rightly concerning truths of faith
- Creates a respect for created things and how to use them in a holy way
- Helps identify roadblocks within ourselves as to earthly things that block our relationship with God
- Gives discernment between impulses of temptation and impulses of grace

***Counsel***

- "Supernatural" common sense
- Enables a person to judge acts as either good or evil, especially in difficult circumstances
- Holy Spirit speaks to the heart and shows what to do
- Prompts a person to ask, "Will this act lead to holiness or heaven?"

***Fortitude***

- Overcoming difficulties, firmness of spirit
- Enduring pain and suffering with a power infused by God
- Gives strength to resist evil and perseverance to doing good, in spite of obstacles in daily life
- Enables individual to live other virtues heroically

***Piety***

- Infuses an instinctive love for God as a loving Father
- Creates respect for other children of God because of who they are
- Motivated by justice and love for neighbor
- Helps find practice of religion not a burdensome duty, but a delightful service

***Fear of the Lord***

- Gift is sometimes misunderstood because of the word "fear"
- Not a *servile* type of fear, based on a fear of punishment
- Instead it's a *reverential* fear that moves a person to avoid sin because of a love for God
- A profound respect for the majesty of God.
- Arouses in the soul a sense of adoration for God and a sense of horror and sorrow for sin.

What the soul is to the human body, the Holy Spirit is to the church on earth.<sup>1</sup>  
In Ephesians 4:12, we are told that the various spiritual gifts given to the apostles, prophets and evangelists are "...for the work of the ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ."<sup>2</sup>

Charisms (gifts of the spirit) are to be accepted with gratitude by the person who receives them. They are a wonderfully rich grace...for the entire Body of Christ, provided they are really genuine gifts of the Holy Spirit and are used with the promptings of that same spirit.<sup>3</sup>

How do we know and recognize true gifts of the Holy Spirit?

- Authentic gifts of the Holy Spirit edify (or build up) the church, bringing growth and unity.<sup>4</sup>
- Authentic gifts of the spirit bring about light and peace for the individual and for the community. (1 Cor 14:32-33)

---

<sup>1</sup> *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, (New York, NY: Doubleday Publishers), 1995, p 230.

<sup>2</sup> Luke Timothy Johnson, *Scripture & Discernment Decision Making In The Church*, (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press), 1996, p 115.

<sup>3</sup> *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, (New York, NY: Doubleday Publishers), 1995, p 231.

<sup>4</sup> Luke Timothy Johnson, *Scripture & Discernment Decision Making In The Church*, (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press), 1996, p 117.

***Reflection on our own gifts & talents***

- Look at the list below.
- Circle any gifts you think you may have.

Administrative

Analytical

Artistic

Athletic

Coaching

Cooking

Communication

Compassion

Counseling

Craftsmanship

Encouragement

Technical

Giving

Helping

Hospitality

Leadership

Musical

Pastoring

Social

Peacemaking

Service

Teaching

Technical

Writing

***Share***

- Name one or two of your strongest gifts
- How could you use your natural talents to serve God and others?

***Prayer to the Holy Spirit***

Come Holy Spirit,

Fill my heart with your holy gifts. Let my weakness be penetrated with your strength this very day that I may fulfill the duties of my state in life conscientiously, and that I may do what is right and just. Let my charity be such as to offend no one and hurt no one's feelings; so generous as to pardon sincerely any wrong done to me.

Assist me in all the trials of life, enlighten me in my ignorance, advise me in my doubts, strengthen my weakness, help me in all needs and embarrassment, protect me in temptations and console me in all afflictions.

Graciously hear me, O Holy Spirit, and pour your light into my heart, my soul and my mind. Assist me to live a holy life and grow in goodness and grace.<sup>5</sup>

Amen

---

<sup>5</sup> "Come Holy Spirit" Prayer, *Chaplet of the Holy Spirit Pamphlet*, Printed & Distributed by Apostles of the Holy Spirit, Cincinnati, OH, 1998.