

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Isaiah 11, 1-3: 1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. 2 And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of **wisdom** and **understanding**, the Spirit of **counsel** and **might**, the Spirit of **knowledge** and the **fear of the Lord**. 3 And **his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord**.

Wisdom : It is both the knowledge of and judgment about “divine things” and the ability to judge and direct human affairs according to divine truth. Through wisdom, we come to value properly those things which we believe through faith. The truths of Christian belief are more important than the things of this world, and wisdom helps us to order our relationship to the created world properly, loving Creation for the sake of God, rather than for its own sake. For the wise person, the wonders of nature, historical events, and the ups and downs of our lives take on deeper meaning. We see God as our Father and other people with dignity. Lastly being able to see God in everyone and everything everywhere.

Wisdom (knowing how to read the signs of God's presence). Jn 21, 4-7: 4 Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5 Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” 6 He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. 7 That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!”

Understanding: While wisdom is the desire to contemplate the things of God, understanding allows us to grasp, at least in a limited way, the very essence of the truths of the Catholic faith. Through understanding, we gain a certitude about our beliefs that moves beyond faith. It further illuminates one's understanding of Sacred Scripture; and it assists us to understand the significance of religious ritual. This gift strengthens one's insight through prayer, scripture, and the sacraments. This all gives a person a profound appreciation for God's providence.

Understanding (grasping the meaning of the Word of God and translating it into actions and words for today). Acts 8, 30-35: 30 So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” 31 He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 32 Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. 33 In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” 34 The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about

someone else?" 35 Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

Counsel (or Right Judgement): It allows a person to be directed by God in matters necessary for his salvation. With the gift of counsel/right judgment, we know the difference between right and wrong, and we choose to do what is right. Through this gift, we can judge how best to act almost by intuition. A person with right judgment avoids sin and lives out the values taught by Jesus. Because of the gift of Counsel, Christians need not fear to stand up for the truths of the Faith, because the Holy Spirit will guide us in defending those truths.

Counsel (knowing what to do in your heart to stay united with God). Mt 4, 1-11: 1Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. 3The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." 4But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" 5Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" 7Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" 8Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; 9and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." 10Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" 11Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Fortitude (Might or Courage) : The gift of Strength and Courage that helps us to stand up for our faith in Christ, and to suffer and endure the persecution and obstacles that may keep us from practicing our faith. With the gift of Fortitude, we overcome our fear and are willing to take risks as a follower of Jesus Christ. A person with courage is willing to stand up for what is right in the sight of God, even if it means accepting rejection, verbal abuse, or even physical harm and death. The gift of courage allows people the firmness of mind that is required both in doing good and in enduring evil, especially regarding goods or evils that are difficult. Fortitude is the virtue of the martyrs that allows them to suffer death rather than to renounce the Christian Faith

Fortitude (Might or Courage - to change direction, make decisions, and overcome obstacles). Mk 14, 32-36: 32They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." 33He took with him Peter, James and John, and began

to be distressed and agitated. 34And he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.” 35And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. 36He said, “Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.”

Knowledge : The gift of knowledge allows one, as far as is humanly possible, to see things from God's perspective. It “allows us to perceive the greatness of God and his love for his creatures” through creation. It encourages us to lead others and to avoid obstacles that could keep us from him. Knowledge is about the perfection of faith, but whereas wisdom gives us the desire to judge all things according to the truths of the Catholic Faith, knowledge is the actual ability to do so. Like counsel, it is aimed at our actions in this life. In a limited way, knowledge allows us to see the circumstances of our life the way that God sees them. Through this gift of the Holy Spirit, we can determine God's purpose for our lives and live them accordingly.

Knowledge (how to give meaning to my life) Jn 15, 11-14 : 11 I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. 12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you.

Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe): The gift of the Fear of the Lord, and perhaps no other gift of the Holy Spirit is so misunderstood. We think of fear and hope as opposites, but the fear of the Lord confirms the theological virtue of hope. This gift of the Holy Spirit gives us the desire not to offend God, as well as the certainty that God will supply us the grace that we need to keep from offending Him. Our desire not to offend God is more than simply a sense of duty; like piety, the fear of the Lord arises out of love. Through this gift, we become aware of the glory and majesty of God. A person with Wonder and Awe knows that God is the perfection of all we desire: perfect knowledge, perfect goodness, perfect power, and perfect love. Our fear of the Lord is not so much about being afraid of eternal punishment for our sins, but more so out of fear of offending or displeasing him as if he were a loving parent. It is, in this context, “filial” or chaste fear whereby we revere God and avoid separating ourselves from him—as opposed to “servile” fear, whereby we fear punishment. Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom because it puts our mindset in its correct location with respect to God: we are the finite, dependent creatures, and He is the infinite, all-powerful Creator.

Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe - trusting God, simply praying to him, thanking him for his wonders and love). Lk 1, 46-49: 46 And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord,

47and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

Piety (or Reverence inspired by the Fear of the Lord): With the gift of reverence, sometimes called piety, we have a deep sense of respect for God and the church. A person with reverence recognizes our total reliance on God and comes before God with humility, trust, and love. It is about our willingness to worship and to serve God. Piety is the gift whereby, at the Holy Spirit's instigation, we pay worship and duty to God as our Father. Piety takes that willingness beyond a sense of duty so that we desire to worship God and to serve Him out of love, the way that we desire to honor our parents and do what they wish. It fills us with the love, and joyfully longing to serve God and the Church, and enables us to see God in all events through a holy life of prayer and devotion.

Piety (or Reverence - being able to love God and your neighbor). Mk 12, 28-31 : 28One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" 29Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; 30you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' 31The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Galatians 5, 22–23 : 22But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23gentleness, self-control.** Against such there is no law.

The fruit of the Spirit is what comes from the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian. The Bible makes it clear that we all receive the Holy Spirit the moment we believe in Jesus Christ (Romans 8:9, 1 Corinthians 12:13, Ephesians 1:13-14). One of the Holy Spirit's primary purposes when He enters a Christian's life is to **transform** this life. **The work of the Holy Spirit is to make us conform to the image of Christ, more and more like Him.**