

Gifts of the Spirit

The **Gifts of the Holy Spirit** are named in the original Hebrew Scriptures. Six of the gifts are mentioned in Isaiah 11, and the seventh was added in the earliest Christian tradition.

These gifts are manifested in Jesus at his baptism by John and bestowed on the early disciples at Pentecost. Vatican Council II explained that these gifts are given to the faithful for the purpose of making the Church strong. St. Thomas Aquinas described the gifts as the way the Christian can be habitually open to the influence of the Holy Spirit.

Wisdom—nurtures in us a desire to direct our life and our actions to God.

Understanding—enables us to see more clearly and accept more fully the mysteries of faith.

Counsel—assists us in weighing good and evil, and helps us to choose the good.

Fortitude—strengthens us to follow in the way of faith, to be strong in adversity.

Knowledge—enlightens our minds and opens our hearts to what God has done and is revealing in our lives.

Fear of the Lord—fills us with awe, seeing God as all Good, deserving of all our love.

Piety—deepens our love of God as our Creator and assists us to respond in prayer.



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Fruits of the Spirit

As the Gifts of the Holy Spirit become strengthened and deepened, they are witnessed in the Christian through the fruits described in St. Paul's letter to the Galatians. The twelve ***Fruits of the Holy Spirit*** are to be witnessed in everyday life.

Love

Self Control

Joy

Gentleness

Peace

Faithfulness

Patience

Modesty

Kindness

Continency

Goodness

Chastity

Which of these fruits do I model to others in my daily life?

Which fruits do I hope to nurture in my life?

Who has helped develop these gifts and fruits in my life?



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