

The Virtues and Gifts of the Holy Ghost:

What are the chief supernatural powers that are bestowed on our souls with sanctifying grace?

The chief supernatural powers that are bestowed on our soul with sanctifying grace are the THREE THEOLOGICAL VIRTUES and the SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY GHOST.

SUPERNATURAL means "above the natural." All that is on earth or has its origin on the earth is natural. All that is above that which is tied to the earth is of heaven, and is, therefore, supernatural.

Something is supernatural when it is above our natural power to acquire or deserve. No matter what we might do ourselves, we could NEVER obtain or deserve grace unless GOD GAVE IT TO US. Of ourselves we are of nature, and everything that we do is on the level of nature - nothing more -. We can rise to the supernature only with the grace of God. We cannot save our souls WITHOUT the help of supernature - of GRACE. Anyone who does not involve himself in the life of supernature - of GRACE - cannot be saved. A naturally good life is not good enough for salvation - there must be grace present to MIX with the good life for it to be worthy of heaven.

A supernatural virtue is one which is beyond the natural powers of any creature. With our natural powers we can eat, we can talk, we can run. But we cannot love our enemies, for example, with our own natural powers. God has to give us a power above the natural, that is, the virtue of charity, to enable us to do this.

V I R T U E S\*\*\*\*\*

What are the theological virtues and how many are there?

There are three theological virtues, and they are:

- / FAITH \*\*\*\*\*
- HOPE \*\*\*\*\*
- CHARITY \*\*\*\*\*

Why are these virtues called theological virtues?

These virtues are called theological virtues because they have God for their proper object.

Theological means "PERTAINING TO GOD"

Theology is the study of God.

What is faith?

Faith is the virtue by which we firmly believe all the truths God has revealed, on the word of God revealing them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived.

What is hope?

Hope is the virtue by which we firmly trust that God, who is all-powerful and faithful to His promises, will in His mercy give us eternal happiness and the means to obtain it.

What is charity?

Charity is the virtue by which we love God above ALL THINGS for His own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God.