

Study Lesson Number: 27

THE HOLY SPIRIT:

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

Which are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit?

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord.

1. Wisdom: the gift of the Holy Spirit which enables us to judge correctly concerning the things of God. God is love and the Holy Spirit gives the wisdom of love to appreciate divine things, even crosses and tribulations, and really relish them, even though at times they may be repulsive to human nature.
2. Understanding: the gift of the Holy Spirit which gives us an insight into the mysteries of faith so that we may live by them.
3. Counsel: the gift of the Holy Spirit through which we receive His light to guide us in practical matters.
4. Fortitude: the gift of the Holy Spirit which gives us a Christlike courage to love God in the face of all obstacles - even death.
5. Knowledge: the gift of the Holy Spirit which enables us to see God reflected in all creatures and to praise Him in them, but yet to see the nothingness of creatures in themselves so that we will desire God alone.
6. Piety: the gift of the Holy Spirit by which we are attracted to reverence God as our Father and all others as His children, our brethren. It gives us a special love and devotion to God and His saints, and a zeal in prayer and worship.
7. Fear of the Lord: the gift of the Holy Spirit which gives us that quality of love for God which keeps us from sinning mainly because sin displeases Him so much. It is a son's love for his loving Father.

How do the gifts of the Holy Spirit help us?

The gifts of the Holy Spirit help us by making us more alert to discern and more ready to do the will of God.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit enable us to catch the breath of the Holy Spirit, moving the ship of our soul much faster and farther than we could ever sail it by using the virtues ourselves.

For example, we can use the virtue of faith by making an act of faith. But to use this virtue constantly, being aware of God's presence in us and about us at all times, is more than we can do ourselves unless the Holy Spirit does it in us.

Likewise, we can make an act of love. But to love our enemies for God's sake and to be willing even to die for them, we need the help of the Holy Spirit.

The power of the Holy Spirit, which our ship catches by unfolding the sails of the gifts, enables us to do even things that are humanly impossible. It is the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the souls of the saints that explain the seemingly impossible things in their lives.

Which are some of the effects in us of the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

Some of the effects in us of the gifts of the Holy Spirit are the fruits of the Holy Spirit and the Beatitudes.

(continued next week)