

QUIZ ? NAME THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



Can you name the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit? Can you?

Don't confuse them with the twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit!

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are not charismatic gifts. No. They are not special gifts given to some very special people. No. They are "ordinary" gifts that are given to every Christian, to you and to me.

The Church believes that these seven gifts were "infused" into each one of us when we were baptized. They are not "special" because they are essential if we are to live a true Christian life.

Of course, what was "infused" or sown as a tiny seed at our baptism, has to be nurtured and tended, otherwise it will never bear fruit. In some people the seed has remained a seed. It has never grown.

Have they grown in you? Have they grown in me? Are these gifts bearing rich fruit in our lives? And what precisely are the fruits that these seven gifts of the Holy Spirit produce in us?

WISDOM: this gift helps us to know what comes from God, and what does not come from God. We need this gift of wisdom to interpret the events in our lives, and to evaluate our thoughts and desires. Without wisdom we can get into a fine mess. Without wisdom we might marry the wrong person!

UNDERSTANDING: this gives an intuitive grasp of the truths revealed by God. Without this gift many dogmas of the Church, such as the Trinity, the Virgin Birth, the Real Presence

of Christ in the Mass, may just baffle us. But with this gift, you don't need to be a theologian to understand what we believe.

KNOWLEDGE: this gift helps us to grasp quickly the true value of created things, and their relationship to God. Without this kind of knowledge we can easily turn things like money, possessions, career, power, sex, health, into "idols" and false gods. And this can create havoc in our lives.

COUNSEL: this enables us to bring the gift of knowledge to bear on all the concrete and personal decisions we have to make; decisions about how we conduct our relationships, use our sexuality, live our marriage, how many children we should have, how to bring them up, what to do with our money.. .etc.

PIETY: this gift perfects justice, because it moves us to help people out of love and reverence for God. Without piety we are in danger of loving for selfish reasons, and helping others just to quieten our conscience, or to give money to the poor just to get them off our doorstep.

FORTITUDE: this gift produces supernatural strength in us, so that facing dangers, problems, temptations, difficult responsibilities, we stand firm, when by nature we would give in, or run away, or ditch our boy-friend, or quit our marriage, or abandon our priesthood, or pack-in our job. . .etc.

FEAR OF THE LORD: this gift produces in us such a love, reverence and respect for God, that it curbs our desire for an easy life, our thirst for fame, power and success, our lust for pleasure, and helps to free us from selfish and lazy ways, from addictions and disgusting habits.

No. These seven gifts are not special graces given to special people. They are the ordinary gifts of the Holy Spirit, because without them, it is impossible to live a true Christian life - whatever our vocation.

Imagine a parent today, without **wisdom**. What a disaster! Or a Catholic trying to live their faith, or explain it to others, or to catechize or evangelize, without **understanding**!

Imagine young people, living in the fast lane, without **knowledge**. Where will they end up morally or sexually? Or imagine married couples trying to raise a family without the gift of **counsel**.

Imagine a priest in a busy parish, without **piety**. Pity his parishioners. Pity the poor people who call at his door! And can any school teacher today survive without **fortitude**? I doubt it.

And imagine you or me trying to live generous and loving lives without **fear of the Lord**! Impossible! That is why the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are not important. They are essential.

Can you name them now?

