

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The tradition of the Catholic Church lists seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts sum up the ways God helps us relate to one another, to the world and to God. Each gift is a part of what St. Paul calls the greatest spiritual gift - the gift of love (see 1 Corinthians 13.13).

We are called to use the gifts we know we have and to develop the rest. Not everyone may be using every gift, but every gift is present in every person who works with the Holy Spirit. When we have the gifts of the Holy Spirit, they help us know and do what God wants us to do.

The seven traditional gifts of the Spirit are: **Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel (Right Judgment), Knowledge, Fortitude (Courage), Piety (Reverence), Wonder and Awe (Fear of the Lord).**

Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe)

Fear of the Lord, sometimes called "wonder and awe in God's presence," means knowing that God and only God deserves our absolute trust and commitment. It means believing that God's plan is much bigger than anything we can see, and that even when we do not understand what is going on, God is working for good. It means believing that God is infinitely wiser, more loving and more powerful than we are.

A person with the gift of fear of the Lord stands in awe before God and does not forget to worship God. Such a person is not ashamed to ask humbly for God's help and will admit that only God has a right to do, decide or control certain things. A person like this puts God first.

Proverbs 19.23 says, "The fear of the LORD is life indeed; filled with it one rests secure and suffers no harm."

Three biblical stories that can help us understand the fear of the Lord are:

Job 1.13-22 (*Job stays faithful to God even after losing everything*);

Exodus 3.4-6 (*Moses before the burning bush*);

Luke 5.12-14 (*a leper knows that Jesus has the power to heal him*).

