



The Spiritual Gifts

"Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts..."

- 1 Corinthians 14:1

The Holy Spirit: Sanctifier & Artisan

- Sanctifier:

The Holy Spirit molds our souls into the image of Jesus.



Sanctifying and Gratuitous Grace According to St. Thomas Aquinas

“And thus there is a twofold grace: one whereby man himself is united to God, and this is called ‘sanctifying grace’; the other is that whereby one man cooperates with another in leading him to God, and this gift is called ‘gratuitous grace,’ since it is bestowed on a man beyond the capability of nature, and beyond the merit of the person. But whereas it is bestowed on a man, not to justify him, but rather that he may cooperate in the justification of another..”

(St 1-11 q. 111 a. 4)



Gifts of the Spirit

- * Sanctifying Gifts: make the recipient holy

Vs.

- * Gratuitous Gifts: aimed at the benefit of the community.
Also called charismata, charisms, and charismatic gifts.

- * Charismata- graces given to individual Christians for the good of others (Catholic Encyclopedia)

The 7 Sanctifying Gifts

- Make the person holy
- Every Christian has all of the sanctifying gifts, but charisms are given to different individuals as the Spirit wills
- Are received at baptism
- Cannot be “worked on” or earned

“These are permanent dispositions which make man docile in following the promptings of the Holy Spirit”
(CCC #1830)

Virtues



- Our own human effort
- Slower speed
- We have more control over the direction of the boat

Sanctifying Gifts



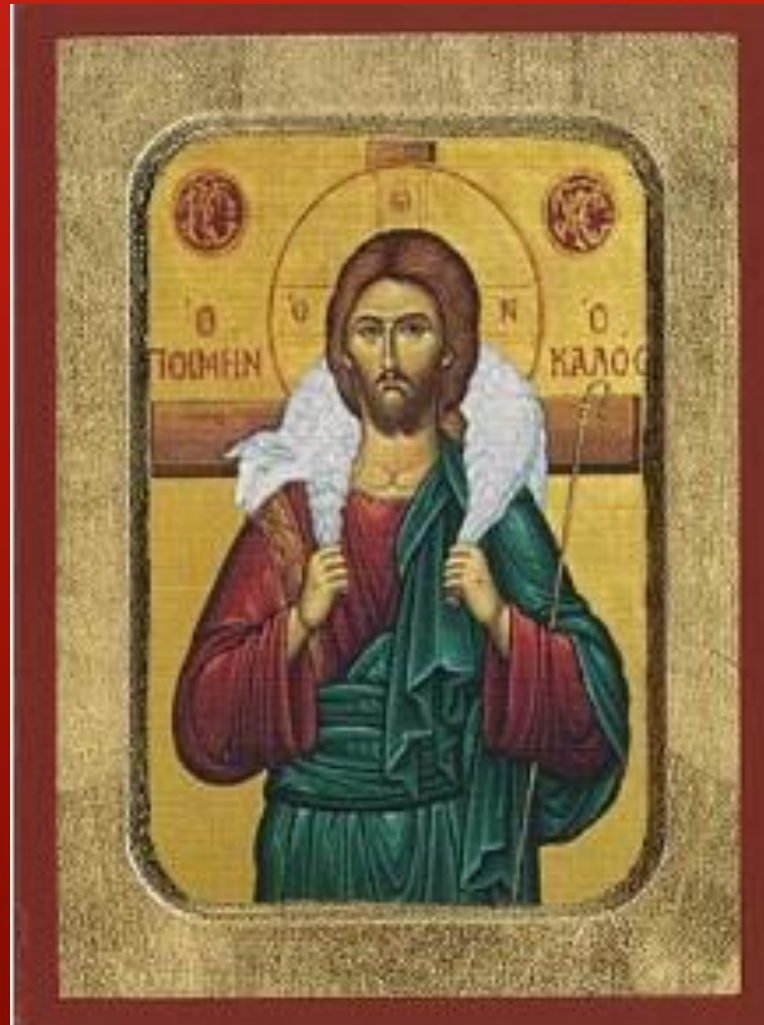
- God's work in the soul
- Less effort than rowing & greater speed
- Carry us along as the Spirit leads

The 7 Sanctifying Gifts

- Fear of the Lord- a profound respect for the Divine Majesty, and fear of offending Him through sin
- Piety- reverence for God the Father, which enables us to “worship in Spirit and in truth”
- Knowledge- enables us to judge rightly the place of created things
- Understanding- empowers our minds to grasp revealed truths
- Counsel- empowers us to choose and act successfully in concrete situations
- Wisdom- draws us to divine things and disposes us to appreciate and value them
- Fortitude- inspired courage provided by the Holy Spirit so that we can persevere in the service of God



The Charismatic Gifts



Gratuitous Graces/Charisms

- Lead other people down the road to conversion
- Build up the mystical Body of Christ
- Enhance unity within the Body of Christ
- The end goal is love

What does the Bible say about Charisms?

- A great outpouring of charisms on His followers was promised by Christ:

“And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

- Mark 16:17-18

What does the Bible say about Charisms?

- The Apostles often urged the Churches to seek spiritual gifts for the benefit of their communities.

“Pursue love, and the desire spiritual gifts...”

- 1 Cor 14:1

- “As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”

- - 1 Peter 4:10

What do the Church Fathers say about the Charisms?

- “...we hear many of the brethern in the Church who have prophetic gifts, and who speak in tongues through the Spirit, and who also bring to light the secret things of men for their benefit [word of knowledge]” – St. Iranaeus, A.D. 150



What does Vatican II and the Catechism say about the Charisms?

“It is not only through the sacraments and Church ministries that the same Holy Spirit sanctifies and leads the people of God. He distributes special graces among the faithful of every rank. ‘The manifestation of the Spirit is given to everyone for profit’ 1 Cor 12:7. **These charismatic gifts, whether they be the most outstanding or the more simple and widely diffused, are to be received with thanksgiving and consolation.** For they are exceedingly suitable and useful for the needs of the Church.”

- Lumen Gentium 12

The 9 Gifts Listed in Corinthians

“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethern, I do not want you to be uninformed” – 1 Cor 12:1

- Faith
- Healing
- Miracles
- Word of knowledge
- Word of wisdom
- Discernment of Spirits
- Tongues
- Interpretation of Tongues
- Prophecy

Action Gifts: Power to DO

- The 3 Actions Gifts: Faith, Healing, Miracles

Why are action gifts important?

“Any proclamation requires confirmation before it can be received...The means, therefore, to show that the proclamation of these preachers comes from God was the evidence of works done by them such as none other than God could do, healing the sick, and other miracles.”

- St. Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologica

Faith

"Truly, I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move, nothing will be impossible for you."

- Mt 17:20

- A special gift of faith, given in a particular moment, to believe without a doubt that God can act and wants to act in a situation

Healing



“Then, he summoned his twelve disciples, and gave them authority to expel unclean spirits and to cure sickness and disease of every kind”

- Mt 10:1

- This gift supernaturally ministers health to the sick
- The gift of healing accompanies the proclamation of God’s word (Mt 10:7-8) and opens people to accept the Gospel (Acts 3:10)

Miracles

“God then gave witness to it by signs, miracles, varied acts of power, and distribution of the gifts of the Holy Spirit as He willed.”

- Hebrews 2:4

- The gift of miracles refers to changing the course of nature, and is often instantaneous
- “The grace of miracles is necessary that people may be confirmed in their faith.” – St. Thomas Aquinas



Revelation Gifts: Power to KNOW

- 3 Revelation Gifts: Word of knowledge, word of wisdom, discernment of spirits

Word of Knowledge

“I will receive my knowledge from afar, and ascribe
righteousness to my Maker”

- Job 36:3

- God gives a person a specific knowledge about a person or situation that could not be known otherwise, unless God revealed it

Word of Wisdom

“In the secret of my heart, you teach me wisdom”

- Ps 51:6

- God gives a person a specific word about how to solve problems or proceed in a tricky situation
- This is a “breakthrough” gift, making a way where there seems to be no way

Discernment of Spirits

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, to see whether they are of God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world”

- 1 John 4:1

- The supernatural ability to distinguish between God's spirit, our human spirits, and demonic spirits

Word Gifts: Power to SAY

- 3 Word Gifts: Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues, Prophecy

Tongues

The Church does not have an official definition of the gift of tongues

3 Understandings of Tongues

- 1) Tongues for Evangelization
- 2) Tongues for Prophecy
- 3) Tongues for Prayer



Interpretation of Tongues

“When you assemble, one has a psalm, another some instruction to give, still another a revelation to share; one speaks in a tongue, another interprets.”

- 1 Cor 14:26

- Interpretation is not a translation, but giving the meaning of a prophetic tongue for the benefit of the whole community
- It may include “some revelation, or knowledge, or prophecy, or instruction” (1 Cor 14:6)

Prophecy

“Yes, even on My servants and handmaids I will pour out a portion of My Spirit in those days, and they shall prophesy.”

-Acts 2:18, Joel 3:1

- Prophecy is speaking on God’s behalf: an inspired utterance in a known tongue
- Not mainly foretelling, but forthtelling
- Biblical Examples:
Jesus speaking forth the strengths and weaknesses of the Churches in Asia (Rev 2-3)

