



The Gifts of the Spirit Bringing out the Best in You

The Gifts of the Spirit are strengthened in Confirmation to help you live a life of virtue. They help you keep your friendship with God strong and guide you in critical situations when you find it hard to cope with problems or to make decisions. They help you respond to God fully and lovingly. Praying for and cultivating these Gifts will bring out the best of your natural qualities and abilities.

WISDOM

...enables you to see life from God's point of view and to recognize the real value of persons, events, and things. Wisdom keeps you from foolishly judging only by appearances. It makes you mature in the way you think and act. Wisdom leads you to work toward being confirmed not because your parents expect it, or because everyone your age is doing it, but because you see its value and desire it.

This gift in me: Do I pursue Wisdom by looking at all the sides of an issue? Do I pray before making judgments? Do I look to wise teachers like Jesus, the teachings of the pope and bishops, and experienced adults?

Prayer for Wisdom: *God of Wisdom, you created us in wonder and sustain us in your embracing love. May your Holy Spirit of Wisdom enable us to see even as you see.*

UNDERSTANDING

...grow through prayer and the reading of Scripture. It gives you insight into the truths of the faith and being a follower of Jesus, and it helps you make right choices in your relationships with God and others.

This gift in me: Do I take time to reflect on my learning about the Catholic faith? Do I make an effort to understand myself? Do I try to figure out why others act the way they do?

Prayer for Understanding: *God of Understanding, your inspired Word reveals your mysterious plan for the world. May your Holy Spirit of Understanding help us to interpret your will in the daily events of our lives.*

RIGHT JUDGMENT (sometimes called "counsel")

...helps you seek advice and be open to the advice of others. Using this gift, you seek direction in the Sacrament of Penance, and you ask advice from parents or friends. Right Judgment also helps you give advice. With Right Judgment, you are able to help others with their problems, and you speak up and encourage them to do the right thing.

This gift in me: Do I seek out what the Church and the Bible teach about what is right and wrong? Do I pray about decisions before taking action?

Prayer for Right Judgment: *God of Right Judgment, you are slow to anger and quick to forgive. May your Holy Spirit of Right Judgment free us from all resentment and prejudice.*

KNOWLEDGE

...helps you know what God asks of you and how you should respond. You come to know God. You come to know who you are and the real value of things through the experiences of your life. This gift also helps you recognize temptations for what they are and turn to God for help.

This gift in me: Am I open to what God has to teach me about life? Does what I know about Jesus and his life lead me to commit myself to Christ and to the Church?

Prayer for Knowledge: *God of Knowledge, you know when we sit and when we stand; you know the hidden secrets of the universe. May your Holy Spirit of Knowledge enlighten us to know how we are to love all you have made.*

COURAGE (sometimes called "fortitude")

...enables you to stand up for your beliefs and to live as a follower of Jesus. With this gift you have the inner strength to do what is right in the face of difficulties and to endure suffering with faith. Courage helps you to undertake challenging tasks in the service of your faith. But it also takes courage to be faithful to ordinary duties. It takes strength to live a good Christian life even when no one praises you or notices your effort.

This gift in me: Do I do what is right regardless of the personal consequences? Am I my own person? Do I speak out when I see injustice?

Prayer for Courage: *God of Courage, your strength enables us to overcome any difficulty. May your Holy Spirit of Courage give us bold hearts to proclaim your love always.*

REVERENCE (sometimes called "piety")

...helps you love and worship God and to sense God's presence in all created things. It calls you to be faithful in your relationships with God and others. Reverence also helps us to be respectful and generous to others.

This gift in me: Do I respect the basic dignity of others? Do I recognize God as my creator and savior?

Prayer for Reverence: *God of Reverence, you are always in loving relationship with your creation. May your Holy Spirit of Reverence place us confidently in your loving embrace.*

WONDER & AWE (sometimes called "fear of the Lord")

...helps you recognize the greatness of God and your dependence on Him. It leads you to marvel at God's incredible love for you. God makes such a gift of Himself to us that we become His gift to others.

This gift in me: Do I love God with my whole mind, heart and soul? Do I pray? Do I know that God is God and that I am not?

Prayer for Wonder & Awe: *God of Wonder & Awe, how wonderful the work of your hands, how awesome your ways. May your Holy Spirit of Wonder & Awe enable us to see your beauty in each person we meet.*