

Gifts of the Holy Spirit—A Teaching by Bishop Jim

“The greatest gift the Holy Spirit gives—is the Holy Spirit Himself! Our living God, who is full of love, gives us His own Spirit when we are baptized, placing a beautiful light inside our hearts. The Holy Spirit then lavishes diverse gifts on all. Some gifts help our hearts grow closer to God and become kinder, wiser, and more loving. Other gifts help us care for and strengthen the whole family of believers—the Body of Christ.” (The Wild Goose Small Group Folder, page 17) The **gifts of the Holy Spirit** refer to supernatural graces given to believers to strengthen their personal faith, build up the church, and serve the common good.

The Traditional Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2-3)

Prophesied by Isaiah, these gifts are permanent dispositions received at Baptism and sealed during Confirmation to perfect a believer's virtues.

- **Wisdom:** The ability to judge human affairs according to divine truth and prioritize eternal things over worldly ones.
- **Understanding:** Deep insight into the core truths of faith and the ability to grasp the meaning of God's word.
- **Counsel:** Supernatural intuition that helps a person discern right from wrong and make morally sound choices.
- **Fortitude:** The moral strength, courage, and patient endurance required to stand firm in faith and face hardships.
- **Knowledge:** The capacity to see the creative hand of God in the world and understand the true value of creation in relation to the Creator.
- **Piety:** A profound reverence and deep, loving devotion toward God as our heavenly Father, which translates into affection for others.
- **Fear of the Lord:** Holy awe, respect, and wonder for the majesty of God, driving a desire to avoid offending Him.

The Nine Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

Often referred to as **charismatic gifts**, these are special manifestations distributed by the Holy Spirit to individuals for the edification and building up of the church body.

Revelatory Gifts

- **Word of Wisdom:** A supernatural flash of insight or solution given for a specific dilemma or situation.
- **Word of Knowledge:** The supernatural gathering of facts or information about a person or event, without human means.
- **Discerning of Spirits:** The ability to perceive the true spiritual source behind an action, teaching, or event (whether divine, human, or demonic).

Power Gifts

- **Faith:** An extraordinary surge of supernatural confidence and trust in God's power to act in a specific moment.
- **Gifts of Healing:** Divine interventions that restore physical, emotional, or spiritual health to individuals.
- **Working of Miracles:** Operations of power that visibly transcend natural laws to display the presence of God.

Speaking / Vocal Gifts

- **Prophecy:** Delivering a timely, inspired message from God meant to encourage, comfort, or build up the church.
- **Diverse Kinds of Tongues:** Speaking or praying in an unlearned, supernatural language.
- **Interpretation of Tongues:** The supernatural ability to translate or reveal the meaning of a message spoken in tongues.

Other Biblical Gifts

Beyond 1 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul identifies broader motivational and leadership gifts intended to keep the church operational and supportive:

- **Romans 12:** Prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leadership, and showing mercy.
- **Ephesians 4:** Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers (often called the five-fold ministry).

“Each and every gift is given with love and for a purpose. No matter who we are, the Holy Spirit’s gifts are meant for all Christians, and no one should think that the gifts are not for them.” (The Wild Goose Small Group Folder, page 17)

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit go beyond all the gifts listed here. Whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, gracious, is of excellence, and worthy of praise, these are Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” (Philippians 4:8)

May we not let these Gifts of the Holy Spirit go to waste, but may we use the gifts that have been lavished upon us to bear much fruit. ***Jesus said, “Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit.” (Matthew 21:43)***

The Holy Spirit gives Himself and a rich variety of gifts to every Christian so that believers may grow in holiness, discern and follow God’s will, serve others, and strengthen the Church. The traditional seven gifts shape a person’s character and faith, while the charismatic, motivational, and leadership gifts equip the Christian community for ministry. Because every gift is given in love and for a purpose, believers are called to receive these charisms with gratitude and use them faithfully to bear good fruit for the kingdom of God.

So let us open our hearts completely—without fear, hesitation, or reserve—to the Holy Spirit and to every gift He desires to awaken within us. Let us ask boldly, receive humbly, and act courageously, refusing to leave dormant what God has entrusted to us. These gifts are not merely blessings to possess; they are graces to be practiced, strengthened, and poured out in love. When we put them to use, they transform our own lives, deepen our faith, heal what is broken, and lead us more fully into the purpose for which we were created; bringing renewal to our families, our Church, and the world. **Come, Holy Spirit—make us fully receptive, wholly available, and ready to bear abundant fruit for the glory of God and the good of all.**