

Gifts of The Holy Spirit

Gifts of the Holy Spirit are divine abilities given to Christians for building the church, with two main traditions: the Catholic Seven Gifts (wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, fear of the Lord) focused on spiritual perfection, and the Protestant Nine Manifestation Gifts (wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues) focused on supernatural acts for service. Both traditions see these as empowering believers to live righteously and serve God's purposes, differing mainly in emphasis and specific lists, originating from scripture like Isaiah 11 and 1 Corinthians 12

Catholic Tradition (The Seven Gifts)

These gifts perfect the virtues and make believers docile to God's inspirations, says the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

- **Wisdom:** Judgment about divine things and human affairs in light of divine truth.
- **Understanding:** Deep insight into spiritual truths, seeing God.
- **Counsel:** Guidance in matters necessary for salvation.
- **Fortitude (Courage):** Strength to do God's will.
- **Knowledge:** Knowing God's will and the ability to apply it.
- **Piety (Reverence):** Deep respect and devotion to God.
- **Fear of the Lord (Awe):** Wonder and reverence, avoiding sin out of love.

Protestant Tradition (The Nine Manifestation Gifts)

These are supernatural abilities given for the common good, listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10.

- **Word of Wisdom:** Applying divine knowledge to specific situations.
- **Word of Knowledge:** Supernatural understanding of facts or situations.
- **Faith:** Special, supernatural faith beyond normal belief.
- **Gifts of Healing:** Supernatural restoration of health.
- **Working of Miracles:** Supernatural acts.
- **Prophecy:** Divinely inspired utterance, often foretelling or declaring God's message.
- **Discerning of Spirits:** Identifying spiritual influences (good or evil).
- **Speaking in Tongues:** Speaking in a language unknown to the speaker.
- **Interpretation of Tongues:** Understanding and interpreting the message of tongues.

Key Differences & Similarities

- **Focus:**

Catholic gifts focus on perfecting the person (virtues), while Protestant gifts focus on empowering the person (actions/manifestations) for the church.

- **Origin:**

Both stem from scripture, but the Catholic list comes from Isaiah 11, while the manifestation gifts come from 1 Corinthians 12, notes

- **Purpose:**

Both aim to help believers grow in faith and serve God, using gifts as empowerment for God's plans