

Journey of Faith



In Short:

- Gifts of the Holy Spirit are manifested in the lives of the faithful.
- All spiritual gifts are to be used in loving service.
- We each must discern, develop, and share our spiritual gifts.



gifts through baptism. As with other gifts, it's impossible to fully appreciate and make use of our spiritual gifts until we've opened them. These gifts are to be used out of love for and in service to one another. We don't choose our gifts; God bestows them on us through the work of the Holy Spirit.

"So that she can fulfill her mission, the Holy Spirit 'bestows upon [the Church] varied hierarchic and charismatic gifts, and in this way directs her.' 'Henceforward the Church, endowed with the gifts of her founder and faithfully observing his precepts of charity, humility and self-denial, receives the mission of proclaiming and establishing among all peoples the Kingdom of Christ and of God, and she is on earth the seed and the beginning of that kingdom.'"

CCC 768, citing Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (*Lumen Gentium*), 4–5

Your Spiritual Gifts

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit; to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes."

1 Corinthians 12:4–11

God has given each Christian two important gifts: the gift of faith in Jesus Christ and the gift of one or more special abilities. These gifts are to be used to unify the body of Christ and to promote the growth of God's kingdom. We receive our spiritual

Let's explore some possible spiritual gifts and consider which ones God has given to us. Once we've discerned our gifts, we'll be better equipped to develop and share them within the Church community and beyond. This sharing of gifts is vital for each individual Christian as well as to the Church as we embrace and carry out our mission of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ.

The Gift of Wisdom

It's said that wisdom comes with age, but it's not automatic. Wisdom is a gift of the Holy Spirit that's attained through having an open mind, learning from experience, knowing human nature, and knowing that God is alive and active in our world. It changes the way we live.

"But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without inconstancy or insincerity."

James 3:17

"Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show his works by a good life in the humility that comes from wisdom."

James 3:13

Possible Ministries

- Counseling others formally or informally
- Starting a support group for the grieving, the divorced, or others
- Participating in small faith groups

- What other ministries require the gift of wisdom?
- I express the gift of wisdom by...



The Gift of Knowledge

We all have knowledge we can share with others. The important thing isn't how much knowledge we have but how we express it and share it for the benefit of others.

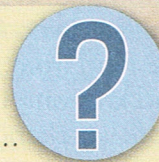
"We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the things freely given us by God. And we speak about them not with words taught by human wisdom, but with words taught by the Spirit, describing spiritual realities in spiritual terms."

1 Corinthians 2:12-13

Possible Ministries

- Leading a Bible study group
- Teaching children in parish faith-formation classes
- Teaching adult-literacy classes

- What other ministries use the gift of knowledge?
- I express the gift of knowledge when...



The Gift of Faith

The gift of faith can seem ordinary because it's something we're all supposed to have. But Jesus told us we can move mountains with a true gift of faith:

"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Matthew 17:20

Possible Ministries

- Contributing money to help the parish or community
- Working in a food pantry or homeless shelter
- Participating in a parish prayer group

- What other ministries use the gift of faith?
- I sense the gift of faith when...



The Gift of Healing

When we think of healing, we may think of miracles that defy explanation. But anything we do to lift a depressed spirit, bring a smile, or touch a hurting heart is also healing. When Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha had died,

"Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother."

John 11:19

Possible Ministries

- Visiting shut-ins
- Transporting those in nursing homes to Mass
- Taking Communion to shut-ins and those in nursing homes

- What other ministries use the gift of healing?
- The Holy Spirit gave me the gift of healing when...



The Gift of Working Mighty Deeds

Mighty deeds aren't necessarily big in the eyes of the world. Sometimes small acts done with great love and trust in God are the mightiest of all.

"[Jesus] noticed a poor widow putting in two small coins. He said, 'I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest; for those others have all made offerings from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood.'"

Luke 21:2-4

Possible Ministries

- Serving refreshments at parish functions
- Cleaning and maintaining the church
- Repairing the homes of the poor or elderly

- What other ministries use the gift of performing mighty deeds for others?
- I demonstrated the gift of mighty deeds when...



The Gift of Prophecy

Prophecy for the Christian isn't foretelling the future. Prophecy is living according to God's values and announcing them in situations where they don't appear to be present.

"No prophecy ever came through human will; but rather human beings moved by the holy Spirit spoke under the influence of God."

2 Peter 1:21

Possible Ministries

- Joining a parish social justice group
- Making your parish accessible and welcoming for those with disabilities
- Speaking out when those around you misunderstand or misrepresent the Catholic faith

- What other ministries use the gift of prophecy?
- I experienced the gift of prophecy when...



The Gift of Discernment of Spirits

It's easy to write off hostile or critical people. But discernment of spirits means we see everyone as a child of God with gifts to share. We seek God's perspective and ask ourselves what God would want us to do.

"Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God....You did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, 'Abba, Father!'"

Romans 8:14-15

"Through faith you are all children of God in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 3:26

"God our savior, who wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth."

1 Timothy 2:3-4

Possible Ministries

- Serving on the parish council
- Working on parish finances
- Seeking volunteers for projects

- What other ministries use the gift of discernment of spirits?
- I experienced the gift of discernment of spirits when...



The Gift of Tongues

After the Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost, Peter and the other apostles were able to communicate God's good news so that people from every land could understand. The gift of tongues is expressed in the language of love and compassion. We communicate these things when we express our appreciation, admiration, and encouragement to others.

"And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim."

Acts 2:4

"What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops."

Matthew 10:27

Possible Ministries

- Leading a committee
- Promoting parish events
- Serving as a lector

- What other ministries rely on the gift of good communication?
- I use the gift of communication when...



The Gift of Interpreting Tongues

We must listen for God's voice in everyday life. Jesus said:

"But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear."

Matthew 13:16

"For God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to bring to light the knowledge of the glory of God on the face of [Jesus] Christ."

2 Corinthians 4:6

"You have the anointing that comes from the holy one, and you all have knowledge."

1 John 2:20

Possible Ministries

- Comforting the grieving
- Welcoming new people in the parish
- Working with alienated Catholics

- What other ministries use the gift of listening?
- I use the gift of listening when...



- How might I use the gifts God has given me for building up the Church?



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