

Journey of Faith



In Short:



- Various gifts of the Holy Spirit can be discovered in the lives of the faithful.
- All spiritual gifts are to be used out of love for and in service to one another.
- We're each responsible for discerning, developing, and sharing our spiritual gifts.

You can't picture yourself as a prophet or performing mighty deeds? You're not a straight-A student or an all-star athlete? You don't think you have any special gifts? You think the Holy Spirit just passed right over you?

The Holy Spirit didn't leave you out. We all receive our spiritual gifts through baptism, gifts that we're called to use to unify the body of Christ and to help spread the message of God's kingdom. You didn't get to choose your spiritual gifts, God bestows them on us through the work of the Holy Spirit, but you are called to use them out of love for an in service to others.

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

"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

But before you fully appreciate or make use of your gifts from the Holy Spirit, you have to open them and fully appreciate what you've been given. Once you've discerned and understand your gifts, you'll be better equipped to share them within your community and beyond.

The Gift of Wisdom

"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

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.

We use the gift of wisdom when we:

- Informally counsel others.
- Discourage harmful or destructive behavior in our friends.
- Participate in small faith groups.

• What other actions or ministries require the gift of wisdom?



The Gift of Knowledge

"The heart of the intelligent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge."

Proverbs 18:15

We all have knowledge we can share with others. The important thing isn't how much knowledge we have, but how we use it. Our goal shouldn't be to use our knowledge to prove other people wrong or to prove how smart we are. We should use our knowledge for the benefit of others.

We use the gift of knowledge when we:

- Volunteer as after-school tutors for students in need of extra help.
- Help a younger sibling with a science project, scouting event, etc.
- Assist coaches who manage teams for younger athletes.

• What other actions or ministries require the gift of knowledge?



The Gift of Faith

"[I]f 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

The gift of faith is easy to take for granted. But Jesus told us we can move mountains with the true gift of faith. Faith gives us the ability to hope even while we're suffering.

We use the gift of faith when we:

- Pray, as individuals or as members of a group.
- Work in a food pantry, homeless shelter, or crisis pregnancy center.
- Offer sincere words of hope or encouragement to someone who is sad.

• What other actions or ministries require the gift of faith?



The Gift of Healing

"Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give."


Matthew 10:8

When we think of healing, we may think of miraculous return to physical health that defies explanation. But while healing does sometimes include a miraculous cure, healing doesn't always mean restoring physical health. Healing takes place in the spirit as well as in the body. Any time we help lift a depressed spirit, bring a smile, or touch a hurting heart, we are using our gift of healing.

We use the gift of healing when we:

- Drive those in nursing homes to Mass.
- Spend time with the homebound.
- Bring assignments to sick classmates.

• *What other actions or ministries require the gift of healing?*




Prophecy for the Christian is not foretelling the future. Prophecy is living according to God's values and announcing them in situations where they don't appear to be present. When you have the courage to stand up for injustice or to speak out in defense of a bullied classmate you are using the gift of prophecy. Sometimes prophets make statements that don't agree with popular opinion, and that's why Christian prophecy requires a great deal of courage and trust in God.

We use the gift of prophecy when we:

- Join a parish social-justice group.
- Help make our parish and school welcoming for all.
- Speak out when our friends act in ways that oppose a Christian lifestyle.

• *What other actions or ministries require the gift of prophecy?*



The Gift of Working Mighty Deeds

"[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

Putting in only two small coins doesn't sound like a mighty deed, but behind this small act was a mighty sacrifice and required mighty faith in God. The mighty deeds of the Holy Spirit aren't necessarily big in the eyes of the world. Sometimes these deeds are small acts done with great love and trust in God; the humble, thoughtful services that no one else will do.

We use the gift of working mighty deeds when we:

- Serve refreshments at parish functions.
- Clean or maintaining our church, school, or home.
- Do yard work or chores for the elderly.

• *What other actions or ministries require the gift of working mighty deeds?*



The Gift of Discernment of Spirits

"My son, if you receive my words and treasure my commands, Turning your ear to wisdom, inclining your heart to understanding; Yes, if you call for intelligence, and to understanding raise your voice...Then will you understand the fear of the LORD; the knowledge of God you will find."

Proverbs 2:1-5

It's easy to write off people we think are hostile, critical, or simply don't agree with us. Discernment of spirits means that instead of writing people off based on our first, human impression, we look at them and the situation the way God would. When we reflect on a situation to determine and understand what God would want us to do, we are using the gift of discernment of spirits.

We need the gift of discernment of spirits when we:

- Serve on student council or take on a leadership role in our parish youth group.
- Mediate differences among our friends.
- Organize or seek out volunteers for service projects.

The Gift of Prophecy

"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

- What other actions or ministries require the gift of discernment of spirits?



The Gift of Tongues

"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

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.

We need the gift of tongues when we:

- Invite new people to join parish events or groups.
- Act with compassion even during disagreements.
- Serve as a lector.

- What other actions or ministries require the gift of tongues?



The Gift of Interpreting Tongues

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

Matthew 13:16

When we interpret tongues we listen for God's voice in our everyday life.

We need the gift of interpreting tongues when we:

- Comfort the grieving.
- Evangelize to friends.
- Welcome new friends into our school or parish.

- What other actions or ministries require the gift of interpreting tongues?



With a partner or as a group, list one example or scenario in which someone uses a gift of the Holy Spirit. Try to list one for each gift.

Which gifts of the Holy Spirit do you feel have been bestowed on you? How do you use this gift in your life, or how could you start using this gift in your life?



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