

SOME ACTUAL GRACES (GIFTS) COMING WITH THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

This sacrament is a "river" of God's love giving us His POWER to serve others. This is a MINISTRY SACRAMENT. There is much to learn about following Jesus as disciples and ambassadors of His Kingdom. It involves some study and openness to the Holy Spirit. These charisms are actual graces (gifts) which, except for prayer tongues (which you can control once you have yielded to it), come and go according to the need of those you work or pray with. These gifts God gives us freely so we can reach out and help others and change our culture and world. Yet we must freely accepted them. *"Of this wisdom it is written: 'Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it so much as dawned on us what God has prepared for those who love Him,'" 1 Cor 2:9.* Each of us have certain gifts and some many gifts or ministries to help build up the broken Body of Jesus Christ around us. None of us are perfect, have all the gifts nor have all the answers yet our Merciful God chooses to use us (students) as His Disciples and Ambassadors. He is the Lord.

N.B.: Below are short sentence definitions of each of these gifts. There is more to learn about each of them.

9 GRACES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: 1 Corinthians 12: 8-11 (some ministry graces)

1 - The **Word of WISDOM** is a spiritual gift by which the Holy Spirit leads us to say or do something or not do it in a way that is helpful to build up the Body of Christ (spiritual therapy, an intuition or leading). It is an expression of God's guidance in how to live as a Christian. (Mk 10:20).

2 - The **Word of KNOWLEDGE** is usually **one word or fact** given by which we gain information necessary to minister healing and renew to another person or group. It is a thought, word, picture or insight that seems to come into our mind as we pray with others. (Eph 1:17-18)

3 - This dimension of **FAITH** is a confidence in prayer that what we are led to ask from our Father in the Name of Jesus Christ, will happen if it is according to His will. It brings extraordinary results (Mk 11:23).

4 - The **Ministries of HEALING** are God using a person or team to bring physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, relational, generational, genetic, and other types of healing to others in a direct or accelerated way. (Acts 3:1-10).

5 - The **Ministry of MIRACLES** usually refers to an extraordinary manifestation of God's power to help someone. General characteristics are its: 1) spiritual nature, 2) moral nature (affects one's conduct, 3) general answer to prayer, 4) usually seen by others, 5) not necessarily dependent on the recipient's faith, and 6) promotes another's welfare. Think of Jesus and Peter walking on water, feeding thousands with a few loaves and fishes and calming storms.

6 - The **Ministry of PROPHECY** is the Holy Spirit in us speaking to a person or group, words of encouragement and/or direction usually spoken in the first person singular. It can also be a faint picture in our mind understood or not by the recipient. A direct quote of scripture is not a current prophecy. (1 Cor 14)

7 -- **DISCERNMENT OF SPIRITS** is a grace of knowing where the power of something or someone is operating from. We need to know if what we see or experience is God's power, our human will and spirit or are evil spirits functioning. What are the values and teaching behind TV programs and music etc. (Acts 8:23).

8 -- The gift of **PRAISING IN TONGUES** is the Holy Spirit in us using our voice to pray to God in a language we do not know which bypasses our thinking process. It can be done alone or in a group and functions in speaking, praying, singing, praising or delivering evil spirits from persons or places. The Holy Spirit prays as God wills, (Rm 8:27).

9 -- The ministry of **INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES** is similar to translating a foreign language except that the person giving the interpretation of another's tongues does not know the language. The interpretation of what was said in tongues is given directly by the Holy Spirit. The interpreter must give the message to the whole group for the building up of the "Body of Christ." It seems the number of sentences should be the same length as that spoken in tongues.

10 – **RESTING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT (being "slain")** is an experience of the Holy Spirit putting us to sleep or rest for a time while Jesus is operating and healing us. The Holy Spirit comes so strong that a person rests in God's love for us. It is like anesthesia during a serious operation. Don't touch the person; God is healing the person. They will wake up. See: **Gen 2:21-22; 1 Chronicles 5:14; Dan 10:9-12; Mt 28:4; Jn 18:6; Acts 9:4 and 22:7 and Rev 1:17.**

11 – **LAYING ON OF HANDS** with or without **ANOINTING WITH OIL**: Mk 6:13; 16:8; Acts 9:17; 28:8; James 5:14. It has to be understood clearly that Charismatics who pray over people in this way **ARE NOT** giving the Sacrament of the Sick which only an ordained priest can give.

There are countless gifts. God is not limited in His power and we can always receive and learn more. Blessings.