

# Nine Extraordinary Gifts,<sup>1</sup> or “Charisms,” of the Holy Spirit

*If we are full of the Spirit, the nine charisms, or spiritual gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, should be manifested regularly. Although addressed in the Catechism<sup>1</sup> as well as scripture,<sup>2</sup> few Catholics today have even heard of these gifts; fewer have seen them in operation. Here is a refresher course in the ways the Holy Spirit works. And we need these nine gifts in our churches today:*

**1. The word of wisdom.** God can give us a supernatural solution to a problem that cannot be solved by man's ideas. The American church desperately needs this gift so we can shift from man's carnal ways to heaven's wisdom.

**2. The word of knowledge.** The Holy Spirit will sometimes reveal information that could not have been known by man.

**3. The gift of faith.** This is not the normal kind of faith we need daily. The gift of faith is a special ability to believe for big things. A person operating in supernatural faith will motivate others to pray until the answer comes.

**4. The gift of healing.** Paul told the Corinthians that there are actually *gifts* (plural) of healing. This gift emphasizes that God is still in the business of healing bodies, minds and broken hearts.

**5. The gift of miracles.** The book of Acts is a series of miracles—so why would we ever assume God pulled the plug on that power? He still opens prison doors, breaks chains, releases angels, opens blind eyes, changes weather patterns and delivers people of demons. He is still a miracle worker!

**6. Prophecy.** This is a special gift because God loves to speak to His people. And He wants to use us to relay His message. The gift of prophecy can be considered "supernatural encouragement" because it always edifies the person who receives a word from the Lord—even if it is corrective. God uses a person to speak His direct message to others.

**7. Discernment (or "discerning of spirits").** When the Holy Spirit gave His gifts of power, He also provided a way for us to tell the difference between God's work and a demonic counterfeit. Not all that is supernatural is from God, so we need discernment to protect us from false prophecy and occult deception. We also need this gift to set people free from demonic bondage.

**8. Speaking in tongues.** There are "various kinds of tongues" mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:10. Believers can have their own private prayer language, but some people are also gifted to speak in tongues in a church meeting.

**9. Interpretation of tongues.** Similar to prophecy, this gift can relay a message from God that was spoken in a foreign or angelic tongue.

## References:

1, *Catechism of the Catholic Church, para. 2003.* "... There are furthermore special graces, also called *charisms* after the Greek term used by St. Paul and meaning 'favor,' 'gratuitous gift,' 'benefit.' Whatever their character - *sometimes it is extraordinary, such as the gift of miracles or tongues* - charisms are oriented towards sanctifying grace and are intended for the common good of the Church. They are at the service of charity, which builds up the Church."

2. *St. Paul told the Corinthians: "Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts" (1 Cor. 14:1a).* God wants His gifts flowing through us, but He never forces us to use them. He is looking for availability, courage and surrender. Please allow the Holy Spirit to jumpstart His power in your life.