



## Living the Faith Step 3

***Gifts of the Holy Spirit*** - are freely offered to all who believe...

### ***Wisdom***

Wisdom is our ability to value spiritual things over worldly ones. Wisdom enables us to desire the things of God and to correctly order what is happening in our life. The gift of wisdom helps us to see the world through God's eyes, and the light of our own faith. It instils in us the desire to think deeply about the will of God.

### ***Understanding***

Understanding helps us to grasp the truths of the faith more easily and in a more serious way. Our Human intellect cannot grasp all of God's mysteries, but through the gift of understanding we can be led to find the truth, even though we may not fully understand it. The gift of understanding strengthens our insight through prayer, scripture and the sacraments.

### ***Right Judgment***

Right Judgment is an acknowledgement of the difference between right and wrong, which enables people to make proper judgements about situations. A person with right judgment avoids sin and leads a Christ like life. Right judgment inspires us to speak up and encourage others to do the right things. It gives us the ability to act quickly and decisively when faced with difficult situations.

### ***Courage***

The gift of courage supports our decision to follow the will of God in any situation. It allows us to stand up for and defend our faith, even when seriously threatened, even to the point of physical harm or death. The gift of courage allows to remain firm in our decisions to do what we know to be right and to endure the evil inflicted on us by others.

### ***Knowledge***

Knowledge is awareness of God's plan, and the part he wishes us to play in it. Far more than collecting facts, knowledge gives us a true understanding of God's purpose, and how we should respond to it. Knowledge helps bring to light temptations and helps us to discern whether to give in or live with God's approval.

## **Reverence**

Reverence is our obedience to God and willingness to serve him. More than obedience through a sense of duty, reverence is total respect, which allows our response to be one of love and devotion. Reverence helps us to deepen our relationship with and respect for God.

**Wonder and Awe** Wonder and awe highlight awareness of the glory of God, the creator of all things. The gift is also akin to 'Fear of the Lord', in which we dread sin, not for fear of punishment, but of offending God. We fear displeasing God and losing our connection with him, because we know it is so important for our lives. Wonder and awe increase our desire to draw closer to God and so leave sin behind.

**\*\* Also see in Any Step resources:** *Gifts of the Spirit\_Pope Francis*