

## Grace: A Gift of Strength and Support

Read: Saul's Conversion **Acts 9:1-10**

### God's Grace Changed Saul's Life

When Saul met the Risen Jesus on the road to Damascus he experienced a conversion. He accepted God's grace and turned away from sin. Ananias then prayed for Saul, and he was filled with the Holy Spirit and was Baptized.

You may already know that Saul later became known as Paul. He is one of the greatest saints of the Church. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Saint Paul traveled to many countries, telling the people the Good News of Jesus Christ. Saint Paul baptized and confirmed the people so that they too could be filled with the Holy Spirit and be members of the Body of Christ.

**Pray Together:**

### Come Holy Spirit

All-powerful God. Father of our Lord Jesus Christ by water and the holy Spirit You freed us from sin and gave us new life. Send Your Holy Spirit upon us to be our Helper and Guide. Give us the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill us with the spirit of wonder and awe in Your presence. We ask this through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

**Wisdom** is the gift of knowing the right choices to make to live a holy life. The gift of wisdom helps you to avoid the things that could lead you away from God.

**Understanding** is the gift of comprehension, or the ability to grasp the meaning of the teachings of the Church.

**Right Judgment, or Counsel**, is the gift of prudence.

**Courage, or Fortitude**, is the gift that helps you stand up for your faith in Christ.

**Knowledge** is the gift of knowing and enlightenment. The gift of knowledge enables you to choose the right path that will lead you to God.

**Reverence**, or Piety, is the gift of confidence in God. This gift of reverence inspires you to joyfully want to serve God and others.

**Wonder and Awe**, or Fear of the Lord is the gift of wonder and respect that encourages you to be in awe of God.

### WE BELIEVE

Each time we receive the Sacraments, we receive God's grace through the Holy Spirit. Grace, God's free gift of his life, strengthens us to live as Christians.

### FAITH WORDS

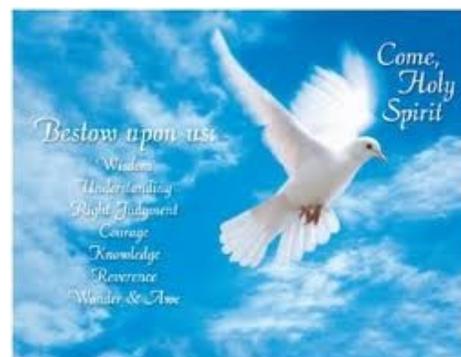
A **conversion** is the experience of accepting God's grace and turning away from sin.

The **Gifts of the Holy Spirit** are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and wonder and awe.

### Our Church Teaches

We receive the Holy Spirit at Baptism. At Confirmation, we receive a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit that binds us more closely to Jesus and his Church.

At Baptism, we also receive seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts are strengthened in us at Confirmation to help us live holy lives and spread and defend our Catholic faith.





# God's Grace in Our Lives

Sanctifying grace is God's presence in our lives.

It is a free and loving gift from God.

Complete these sentences about grace. Put each letter in a box. Then, unscramble the circled letters to identify the person described below.

1. God's free gift of life is ... **G R A C E**

2. Grace makes us ... **H O L Y**

3. We receive grace when we receive the ... **S A C R A M E N T S**

4. Grace heals us of ... **S I N**

5. The type of grace that comes from the Holy Spirit is ... **S A N C T I F Y I N G**

6. Grace helps us live as ... **C H R I S T I A N S**

7. Through community involvement we live out our ... **B A P T I S M**

8. God's grace brings us strength and ... **S U P P O R T**

God's gift of grace dramatically changed his life:  
**S A I N T P A U L**

Parents, Catechists, Teachers: Because sanctifying grace is a gift and not something we earn, we sometimes take it for granted. Discuss the benefits and responsibilities that are mentioned within this activity. We are called to responsibilities, but are given the benefits to help us fulfill them.