

THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE (5 OF 7)

The gift of knowledge perfects the Virtue of [Faith](#). It enables those who have it to judge the whole spectrum of creatures and objects from a supernatural viewpoint. Through infused knowledge, the faithful can see God's providence in whatever enters their lives and put creatures to the right use.

The gift of knowledge is often called "the science of the saints" because it enables those who have it to swiftly discern between the impulses of temptation and the inspirations of grace.

NEW AMERICAN BIBLE REFERENCES

[1 Corinthians 8:1-8](#): "[1](#) [2](#) Now in regard to meat sacrificed to idols: we realize that "all of us have knowledge"; knowledge inflates with pride, but love builds up. If anyone supposes he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. But if one loves God, one is known by him. So about the eating of meat sacrificed to idols: we know that "there is no idol in the world," and that "there is no God but one." Indeed, even though there are so-called gods in heaven and on earth (there are, to be sure, many "gods" and many "lords"), [3](#) yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom all things are and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things are and through whom we exist. But not all have this knowledge. There are some who have been so used to idolatry up until now that, when they eat meat sacrificed to idols, their conscience, which is weak, is defiled. [4](#) Now food will not bring us closer to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, nor are we better off if we do."

[Proverbs 9:10](#): "The beginning of wisdom is the fear of the LORD, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

[2 Peter 1:1-8](#): [1](#) Symeon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have received a faith of equal value to ours through the righteousness of our God and savior Jesus Christ: may grace and peace be yours in abundance through knowledge [2](#) of God and of Jesus our Lord. [3](#) [4](#) His divine power has bestowed on us everything that makes for life and devotion, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and power. Through these, he has bestowed on us the precious and very great promises, so that through them you may come to share in the divine nature, after escaping from the corruption that is in the world because of evil desire. [5](#) For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, virtue with knowledge, knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with devotion, devotion with mutual affection, mutual affection with love. If these are yours and increase in abundance, they will keep you from being idle or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The [Book of Proverbs, chapter 12](#) offers 2 separate references to the gift of Knowledge:

Proverbs 12:1: "He who loves correction loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid."

Proverbs 12:23: "A shrewd man conceals his knowledge, but the hearts of fools gush forth folly."

[Proverbs 1:7](#): "[4](#) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; wisdom and instruction fools despise."

[1 Corinthians 13:1-8](#): "[1](#) If I speak in human and angelic tongues [2](#) but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. [3](#) Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, (love) is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. [4](#) Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing."

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

(CCC) REFERENCES

There are [59](#) references to Knowledge in the CCC- [32](#), [35](#), [37](#), [40](#), [50](#), [74](#), [94](#), [133](#), [157](#), [158](#), [159](#), [184](#), [186](#), [216](#), [283](#), [286](#), [287](#), [314](#), [356](#), [357](#), [387](#), [396](#), [429](#), [472](#), [473](#), [474](#), [683](#), [712](#), [821](#), [851](#), [907](#), [1084](#), [1299](#), [1303](#), [1466](#), [1467](#), [1676](#), [1734](#), [1784](#), [1831](#), [1845](#), [1857](#), [1859](#), [1862](#), [1886](#), [2038](#), [2045](#), [2197](#), [2340](#), [2495](#), [2500](#), [2501](#), [2583](#), [2614](#), [2653](#), [2708](#), [2715](#), [2751](#), [2822](#).

Those listed below are taken from the Index:

and awareness of sin, [708](#), [1859](#); of created and uncreated reality, [2500](#); of creation as God's gift, [216](#), [283](#), [287](#); of the faith and of the catechism, [23](#), [186](#); of good and evil, [396](#), [1734](#); man's knowledge of Christ, [428-29](#), [471-74](#), [1792](#), [2708](#), [2715](#); man's knowledge of God, [31-38](#), [40](#), [50](#), [158](#), [261](#), [286](#), [356](#), [2197](#), [2614](#); of the truth, [74](#), [94](#), [851](#), [2822](#) (see also [Prologue to the Catechism of the Catholic Church](#)).