

God the Holy Spirit

Jesus promised never to abandon His people¹ and so 10 days after He ascended to the right hand of the Father, He sent the third person of the Blessed Trinity, the Holy Spirit, to remain with His people forever on the feast of Pentecost. As the third person. on of the Blessed Trinity, the Holy Spirit is uncreated and eternally proceeds from the Father and the Son. While the Holy Spirit has been active in the world since the first moment of creation, at Pentecost the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles and poured out His grace upon them and the Church.

The Holy Spirit living in the infinite exchange of love between the Father and the Son shows forth God's infinite love. He dwells in the Church as the source of its life and sanctifies the souls of her members through the gift of grace. The Holy Spirit is thus both a witness to Jesus Christ who reveals God's will while at the same time God actively at work in our lives.

The Holy Spirit works in our lives in many ways, but in a particular way through imparting His 7 gifts which makes it possible for human souls to receive God's inspirations and live out their faith in a unique way. The 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit are **wisdom**, which helps a person value the things of heaven, **understanding**, which enables the person to grasp the truths of religion, **counsel**, which helps one to see and correctly choose the best approach to serving God, **fortitude**, which helps to strengthen one's resolve to overcome obstacles in living the faith, **knowledge**, which assists one to see the path to follow and the dangers to their faith, **piety**, which fills a person with confidence in God and an eagerness to serve Him, and **Fear of the Lord (wonder and awe)**, which makes a person aware of God's supremacy and the respect due to Him and His laws.²

The Holy Spirit, poured into the hearts of God's adopted children, leads them to bear much fruit. The fruits of the Spirit are **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control**.³ These perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in the human soul are the first fruits of eternal glory.

The Holy Spirit is God actively at work in our lives and reveals both the witness of Jesus Christ and God's will. It is the Holy Spirit who gives each Christian new life and brings them to a deeper faith in Jesus Christ, uniting each member in the body of Christ. Dwelling inside the

¹ Jn 14: 15-16

² IS 11:23

³ Gal 5: 22-23

Christian, the Holy Spirit guides the Christians as He grows in holiness in life and empowers him for service by imparting different gifts intended to build up the body of Christ.