

Confirmation

November Lesson

One of the most important effects of our Confirmation is a more full release of the **gifts of the Holy Spirit** within our soul and in our life.

There are 7 Gifts;

Wisdom Knowledge Understanding Counsel Fortitude Piety Fear of the Lord

And each month we will dive more deeply into one of the Gifts to help us prepare for Confirmation and learn more about this Catholic Faith we are being fully initiated into!

Let's start with... **WISDOM**

Wisdom is the ability to discern what is true, right, and lasting.

Wisdom enables us to see life from God's perspective.

Wisdom helps you to establish the right priorities in your life, and leads you to think & act in mature ways.

In the First Book of Kings we read about the great king Solomon.

When he was young, God appeared to him and said **"Whatever you ask I shall give you"**

Could you imagine? God the Creator of all things, the All-Powerful King of the Universe offers you **ANYTHING**... what do you think you would ask for?

What do you think Solomon asked for?

He asked God for Wisdom--a listening heart to distinguish between good & evil.
And God was pleased & granted Solomon his request.

God still wants to pour out His wisdom today!
& through the Holy Spirit, He gives us this gift.

But, how do we put ourselves in a position to receive this gift from the Holy Spirit and how do we go about opening it so that we can use it?

* THE DISPOSITION TO RECEIVE WISDOM

If Wisdom the ability to know what is true, then to be ready to receive that gift, we must be willing to set aside our own opinions & preferences when they contradict the Truth.

What does that look like?

I remember once my husband and I were putting together a bunk bed. I had read the instructions, lined up the parts, and was ready to start putting it together. I got one end all done and went to start on the second. My husband interjected, "I think you've got the wrong piece." My pride swelled up and I assured him I had it just right, thank you very much. And as I slid the parts together, they cracked. I broke it! Because, I was more interested in being right than I was in making sure what I was doing was actually right. **In order to receive wisdom we have to be more concerned with what is right than we are in being right.**

In Isaiah 55:8 God says *"My ways are not your ways, and my thoughts are not your thoughts"*

To have Wisdom, which is to see things from God's perspective, sometimes means stepping outside of our own opinions and experiences to reconsider what we thought or the way we did things in light of God's truth.

We can look to one of Jesus' greatest teachings, the Beatitudes to see how different God's thoughts can look from the world's thoughts:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



* BLESSED ARE THEY...

Be honest... do you feel very #blessed when, or would you if, you were poor? Would you when you mourn? Do you feel blessed when you are meek, merciful and strive for peace?

It can often seem like the rich, the happy, the strong, the ruthless; they are the ones with the power and with influence. & you can wonder why God would say those who are poor and hungry and persecuted are the blessed ones.

But Wisdom shows us the Truth.

Wisdom helps us see it all from God's perspective.

No treasure on earth can compare to the treasure of Heaven. And often the stuff, the money, the materialism of this world can make us forget our need for God. No earthly kingdom, no earthly rule, no earthly power, can compare to the Power of God Most High and His Eternal reign and His Heavenly Kingdom. Let us not fight for who is the most important, or who has the most influence, power, or popularity. Let's instead fight to bring God's Kingdom to earth! Nothing we fill our mind with can compare to the glory of seeing God face-to-face. So let us not fill our heads with violence, anger, impurity, & gossip, but instead keep looking to fill our hearts with goodness.

Let's pray...

God, begin to stir within me the gift of Wisdom.

Help me to set aside my own ways & thoughts and choose Yours instead.

Give me the grace to pause and ask for Your eyes, to see things as You do and not as the world does.

Holy Spirit help me to be receptive to Your gifts and give me the courage to open and use every one You offer.

Amen.



If God said He would give you whatever you wanted... what do you think you would ask for? Is it the same thing as what you think you should ask for?



Find out some more information about Solomon, either by reading 1 Kings or using your research skills... did he remain receptive to Wisdom for his whole life?



Read Matthew Chapter 5 and ask God to help you see things as He does.



Reach out to your sponsor and ask them a time they used God's gift of Wisdom in their life
