

What God Does Do For You?

By Father John Catoir, JCD- 8/26/16

God loves you, and gives you spiritual gifts. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above," (James 1:17). God gives you free choice. "For whatever you choose as your treasure, there your heart will also be."- (Matt. 6:21).

God gives you the Holy Spirit. "The Father will give you another, the Comforter, to abide with you forever," (John 14:16). His presence includes the Gifts of the Spirit: wisdom, knowledge, faith, piety, all of which inspire humility and fear of the Lord. This 'fear' is actually not fear, but a respectful awe for God's Majesty. Other gifts include: self-control, healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, speaking in tongues, the gift of administration, and the desire to help others.

May I pause for a minute on self-control? You must absolutely pray for the will to renounce the use of illicit drugs, and all other substances that lead to chemical dependence. Otherwise all the other gifts will be washed away in the self-absorbed misery of a death wish.

What exactly are the gifts of the Holy Spirit that were given to you? I think we can all learn a great deal from St. Cyril, d.386 A.D, who said, "The gifts of the Holy Spirit can be compared to the rain, which falls everywhere the same, but produces different effects on whatever it touches".

He went on: "the rain has one effect on a palm tree, which differs from another effect on a vine, and so on throughout the whole of creation. The actual gift is essentially the same, but it adapts to the needs of every creature it touches."

For instance, if you pray for more self-control, the very fact that you have such a desire opens your soul wider to receive an increase in will power. Expand your spiritual desires, and trust God's love: this is the formula for achieving sainthood.

St. Cyril continues, "The Spirit makes one person a teacher of divine truth, in another he inspires great faith. The Spirit strengthens one person's self-control, and shows another how to help the poor. The Spirit teaches another to be oblivious to the needs of the body, while preparing that soul for martyrdom. In each person, the Holy Spirit reveals His presence in a particular way to help both the individual and the whole Church at the same time.

The Holy Spirit awakens your natural gifts, enabling you to serve the common good more effectively. Your good example helps everyone around you. Self-control, and the spirit of mortification may be stronger in others than in you at this time, but this disparity does not mean that the Spirit is absent. We grow slowly in wisdom, age, and grace; just as Jesus did. We are saints in-training; though not quite there yet, we are preparing ourselves day by day.

WHAT DOES GOD WANT FROM YOU?

God wants you to love him. "Love the Lord thy God, and love thy neighbor as thyself," (Matt. 22:36,39). God wants you to forgive others. "For if you forgive them their trespasses, your heavenly Father will forgive you your trespasses," (Matt.6:15). God wants you to trust him and to be not afraid. "My Peace I leave with you. Let your heart not be troubled, neither let it be afraid," (John 14:27).

God wants you to pray for strength against your spiritual enemies. "Watch and pray, that you do not enter into temptation."(Matt.26:40). Trust that God will strengthen you. Expect the best.