

Closing Prayer ~ Gifts of the Spirit

Together:

God of love and of life, let us take time to look deep within ourselves and discover the gifts you have blessed us with. May we take the time to direct our lives in a way that best uses our own unique combination of gifts. May our education help us discover where our strengths and interests lie. May our faith guide us in realizing our gifts. May we always be open to the direction of the Spirit and never forget the love you have for each of us.

Give us, O Lord, the perception we need to look within ourselves and discover the beauty and gifts we possess. Give us the courage to show others the talents they have. Help us serve others in the community and in so doing build up your kingdom. We ask this through Jesus, our Lord. **Amen.**

Bible Reading ~ Romans 12:6-8 ~

God has also given each of us different gifts to use. If we can prophesy, we should do it according to the amount of faith we have. If we can serve others, we should serve. If we can teach, we should teach. If we can encourage others, we should encourage them. If we can give, we should be generous. If we are leaders, we should do our best. If we are good to others, we should do it cheerfully.

Activity ~ "Finding Your Gift"

Reader 1:

Dear God, we pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. May we always feel the presence of the Holy Spirit directing us and guiding us. May we use the gifts that the Spirit offers to help others who struggle with decisions in their own lives. May we do all this in love and service to you, O Lord. **Amen**

Reader 2:

Dear God, we pray for the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. We know that these fruits are life's greatest blessings. May we use these blessings to help others find faith in your Word. **Amen**

Reader 3:

Dear God, we thank you for all your blessings. We know that all our gifts come from you. May we always give of ourselves. May we use our gifts in a way that shows our gratitude for them. **Amen**

Reader 4:

Dear God, give us the strength to reach out to others in need. May each of us discover our gifts and use them to make the lives of others a little easier. May we always be willing to make sacrifices for the benefit of our fellow human beings and do this in loving service to one another as Jesus taught us. **Amen.**

Reader 5:

Dear God, may we take time today to search within ourselves and see the gifts you have blessed us with. May we not be jealous of the gifts of others, but nurture and celebrate our own gifts. In giving of ourselves we say thank you God, from whom all our gifts come. **Amen.**

Reader 6:

Dear God, we thank you for the many gifts you have given us. We know that all our blessings come from you. Help each of us take time to recognize our gifts, and work toward developing these gifts. May we be willing to reach out to others and share all that we have been blessed with. It is in helping others that we gain joy and fulfillment here on Earth. **Amen.**

Reader 7:

Dear God, help us see today the wonderful gifts with which we have been blessed. Help us discover the hidden talents and skills we possess. May we recognize our potential and never underestimate all we can achieve. Help us continue to dream and explore and never give up! We ask this through Jesus, Our Lord and Savior. **Amen.**

Together:

God of gifts, thank you for the blessings you have given us. May we always use our gifts and talents in a way that demonstrates kindness, humility, and compassion. May we continue to do our part in developing our gifts. Keep our hearts and minds open to the direction of the Spirit, who calls us to celebrate our gifts by sharing them with others.

Loving God, we thank you for all the gifts you have given to us. We thank you for the love you showed in giving us your Son. May we always know that you are there and that we will not be given more than we can handle. Help us to turn to you, lean on you, talk to you and strive to be one with you. **Amen**

-- "Finding Your Gift" Sheet --

Prior to using the prayer, print and cut out the gifts of the Holy Spirit below. Ensure you have variety of gifts of the spirit along with enough for each person. Be creative in how these gifts are put together (i.e in a card or special envelope). After the scriptural reading, invite everyone to come forward and take one of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit on the table. The table should be reflective with a candle (or seven candles) and the scripture open. Once everyone has taken a gift of the Holy Spirit,

Wisdom - Saying and doing what is right and true, without fear or favor.

Wisdom in the Bible: I Kings 3:16-28 II Kings 5:1-14 Matthew 8:5-13

The Holy Spirit gives us these gifts, but a gift that lies on the table without ever being unwrapped does us no good. Make good use of the gifts that the Holy Spirit has given you, by following the example of Jesus, and of the heroes and Saints we read about in the Bible.

Understanding - Being able to see things from the other person's point of view, and being able to see all aspects of a question, and having an appreciation for cause and effect.

Understanding in the Bible: Mark 2:1-12 Ruth 1:3-18 Luke 10:38-42

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Counsel (Right Judgment) - Knowing what to say to people when they are in difficult circumstances, and knowing how to deal with difficult people.

Counsel in the Bible: Acts 5:17, 27-39 Acts 8:26-38 Daniel 13:15-62

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Knowledge - An awareness of the world, and how its parts fit together.

Knowledge in the Bible: Matthew 22:23-33 Luke 10:25-28 Genesis 41:15-36

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Fortitude (Courage) - The ability to face and overcome our fears, and the ability to plow through difficulties without giving up hope. *Fortitude in the Bible:*

Acts 4:1-22

Acts 9:10-19

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Piety (Reverence) - Loyalty and faithfulness to God, and the ability to change our behaviour and our opinions based on what we learn about God from the Church.

Piety in the Bible:

Acts 16:16-34

Acts 2:43-47

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Fear of the Lord - An awareness that God alone deserves our trust and our awe, and that human beings who wish to frighten us into doing what is against God's will cannot really hurt us, as long as we are obedient to God, since He will take care of us, and even if such people were to kill us, they can only kill the body: God will carry us into Heaven if they do.

Fear of the Lord in the Bible: Proverbs 19:23 Job 1:13-22 Exodus 3:4-6

Luke 5:12-14

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