

What are Charisms of the Holy Spirit?

Charisms are gifts of the Spirit used to gather, sanctify, and minister life in the Church and in the world. At least 27 gifts are listed in scripture references (Acts 2, 1 Cor 12, Romans 12 and Ephesians 4) covering a broad range of gifts, from **prophecy** and **healing** to **mercy, teaching, almsgiving, perseverance, joy, encouragement, hospitality** and **leadership**. St. Paul lists nine examples of the Spirit's manifestations in 1 Cor 12:4-11. These are often associated with the Charismatic Renewal:

Prophecy is God's message spoken through an individual to the community. Prophecy does not necessarily mean predicting the future. Paul says the purpose of prophecy is for the "upbuilding and encouragement and consolation" of God's people (1 Cor 14:3).

Tongues (glossolalia) are God's messages spoken through an individual. When one speaks in tongues they are speaking the language of the Holy Spirit to praise God, intercede, or praying for deliverance.

Interpretation of Tongues is the ability to interpret (not translate) a message given in tongues into the vernacular. Tongues, along with interpretation, amounts to prophecy.

Gifts of Service: The power to know: *Knowledge, Discernment*. These gifts are the ability to express and understand various aspects of God's nature or plan in a matter that brings effective results.

Knowledge is the ability to clearly communicate God's word or doctrinal truths, or to know how God is working within an individual or in the community at a particular time.

Discernment is the capacity to know whether a gift or inspiration has at its source the Holy Spirit, is of human origin, or of evil influence. Paul says that the Spirit always bears witness to Jesus (12:3).

Miracles are God's supernatural interventions into the natural realm to demonstrate divine power. Miracles help strengthen faith or bring about faith.

Healing is the manifestation of God's power to restore a person's spiritual, psychological, or physical well-being. This may be instantaneous or gradual, and often through the use of natural means.

Charismatic gifts are as important to the Church today as they were in apostolic times. These gifts work to bring unity, to empower and to serve the Church's needs. The Church has declared: "Whether these charisms be very remarkable or more simple and widely diffused, they are to be received with thanksgiving and consolation since they are fitting and useful for the needs of the church." (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, #12).

[Reference: Charisms © 2009 The National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the United States, Inc.]