Grace and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Chapter 18 Summary

Chapter Learning Objectives

The participants will explore the gift of God’s grace.

The participants will examine the responsibilities of being a Christian and how the Gifts of the Holy Spirit help us to participate in God’s life.

Content Summary

1. Grace is the gift of God’s loving presence in our lives, the help he gives through the Holy Spirit to participate in divine life.

2. At Baptism we receive the life and love of the Holy Spirit. This gift of grace draws us into a close relationship with the Father and Jesus Christ and makes us God’s adopted sons and daughters.

3. Only God can fully satisfy the longings of the human heart. Through grace, we have the ability to freely know and love God. Because God loves us no matter what, he does not force us to love him in return.

4. A person who says yes to God’s invitation to participate in his life acts in a way that reflects the values of Jesus. We do good works out of love for God. All our good works are the result of God’s grace working in us.

5. When we choose to give love away, as God does, we open ourselves more and more to the gifts of love and grace God constantly offers us. Like Jesus, we can be in-the-flesh grace for others.

6. People who accept the gift of God’s grace open that gift and use it in their everyday lives. They grow in their Catholic faith, and they love God and neighbor.

7. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are seven graces that help us respond to God’s call to love others and to live holy lives.

8. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgment (Counsel), Courage (Fortitude), Knowledge, Reverence (Piety), and Wonder and Awe (Fear of the Lord).

9. In Confirmation, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are strengthened in us. They help us to live lives of faith and love as fully initiated members of the Church.

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