

THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE GIFT OF FORTITUDE (4 OF 7)

While walking the Earth, Jesus Christ exhibited the greatest display of fortitude. This allowed Him to endure the hardships during His 3 years of public ministry and, ultimately, His Passion. We are ALL called to follow Christ and, in order to do so, we must utilize this important gift to advance His Kingdom here on Earth. Without the gift of fortitude to help us, our human efforts will assuredly fall short of the goal at hand.

NEW AMERICAN BIBLE REFERENCES

As God knows we have our own cross to carry in our personal lives, He also gives us the strength to carry it, as mentioned in [1 Corinthians 10:12-13](#): "Therefore, whoever thinks he is standing secure should take care not to fall. [6](#) No trial has come to you but what is human. God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it."

As noted, it is not by human strength that we have to do our spiritual battles. Therefore, we need to be reinforced in the strength of His power- putting on the Armor of God- so that we are adequately equipped to fight the good fight against the evil that comes against us:

[Ephesians 6:10-20](#) "[1](#) Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and from his mighty power. Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil. For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens. Therefore, put on the armor of God, that you may be able to resist on the evil day and, having done everything, to hold your ground. So stand fast with your loins girded in truth, clothed with righteousness as a breastplate, and your feet shod in readiness for the gospel of peace. In all circumstances, hold faith as a shield, to quench all (the) flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit. To that end, be watchful with all perseverance and supplication for all the holy ones and also for me, that speech may be given me to open my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel for which I am an ambassador in chains, so that I may have the courage to speak as I must."

[Psalm 105:4](#) encourages us to always keep our eye on the prize, but especially during trials: "Rely on the mighty LORD; constantly seek his face."

With fortitude from On High, as written in [Philippians 4:13](#), we learn to endure and persevere through all our difficulties by leaning on our Redeemer for strength: "I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me."

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH (CCC) REFERENCES

There are [8](#) references to Fortitude in the CCC- 1805, 1808, 1809, 1831, 1834, 1837, 1845, 2473.

Those listed below are taken from the Index:

as a cardinal virtue, [1805](#), [1808](#); as a gift of the Holy Spirit, [712](#), [1303](#), [1831](#); imploring of the Spirit of strength, [2846](#).