

THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE GIFT OF PIETY (6 OF 7)

This is a great gift of faith that gives a person the ability to spend time in prayer and devotions, it is like a fire that always wants to grow and it receives fuel in prayer.

On His way to Calvary, Jesus met the pious women of Jerusalem. They followed the example of Mary, our Blessed Mother. Pious people can be found today attending mass daily and praying for other people. They feed their piety by praying the Holy Rosary daily, by seeking knowledge in Sacred Scripture, by practicing their religious devotions and praying for and helping others unconditionally.

Most priests and religious have had this strong vocation of serving the Lord and they were motivated, in large part, by piety. They have accepted all the daily hardships and persecutions that come with dedicating their lives to Christ, as they emulate St. Paul in [2 Corinthians 12:10-11](#): "Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong. [Z](#)"

NEW AMERICAN BIBLE REFERENCES

[Proverbs 23](#) offers insight into the gift of Piety in two separate places:

(23:15-16) "My son, if your heart be wise, my own heart also will rejoice; and my inmost being will exult, when your lips speak what is right."

(23:22-25) "Listen to your father who begot you, and despise not your mother when she is old. Get the truth, and sell it not-- wisdom, instruction and understanding. The father of a just man will exult with glee; he who begets a wise son will have joy in him. Let your father and mother have joy; let her who bore you exult."

The [Book of Tobit](#), revealing the story of Sarah and Tobiah, was most likely written in the early second century B.C. The popular story teaches about Jewish piety and morality, and is also anchored in oriental folklore.

[Job 15:1-5](#) "Then Eliphaz the Temanite spoke and said: Should a wise man answer with airy opinions, or puff himself up with wind? Should he argue in speech which does not avail, and in words which are to no profit? You in fact do away with piety, and you lessen devotion toward God, because your wickedness instructs your mouth, and you choose to speak like the crafty."

[Job 22:4](#) "Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said: Can a man be profitable to God? Though to himself a wise man be profitable! Is it of advantage to the Almighty if you are just? Or is it a gain to him if you make your ways perfect? Is it because of your piety that he reproves you-- that he enters with you into judgment?"

[Job 4:5-6](#) "But now that it comes to you, you are impatient; when it touches yourself, you are dismayed. Is not your piety a source of confidence, and your integrity of life your hope?"

[2 Timothy 3:5](#) "[1](#) But understand this: there will be terrifying times in the last days. People will be self-centered and lovers of money, proud, haughty, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, irreligious, callous, implacable, slanderous, licentious, brutal, hating what is good, traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, as they make a pretense of religion but deny its power. Reject them."

[Matthew 6:1-4](#) "[1](#) (But) take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites [2](#) do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you."

[Hosea 6:4-7](#) "[3](#) What can I do with you, Ephraim? What can I do with you, Judah? Your piety is like a morning cloud, like the dew that early passes away. For this reason I smote them through the prophets, I slew them by the words of my mouth; for it is love that I desire, not sacrifice, and knowledge of God rather than holocausts. But they, in their land, violated the covenant; there they were untrue to me."

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH (CCC) REFERENCES

There are [14](#) references to Piety in the CCC- [24](#), [575](#), [1674](#), [1675](#), [1676](#), [1679](#), [1686](#), [1831](#), [1845](#), [2186](#), [2215](#), [2678](#), [2688](#), [2767](#).

Those listed below are taken from the Index:

devotion to the Virgin Mary, [971](#); filial, [2215](#); as a gift of the Holy Spirit, [1303](#), [1831](#); popular piety and catechesis, [1674](#), [2688](#).