

The Seven Gifts Of The Holy Ghost. Talk 4, Counsel.  
*Notes on Canon Poucin's Faith Talk 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020*

Virtue -Baptism			Gift - Confirmation		Beatitude
Theological virtues -Infused at baptism. The action is directed towards God	Charity	Corresponds to	Knowledge	Corresponds to one of the beatitudes	
	Faith		Understanding		
	Hope		Wisdom		
Cardinal virtues -human virtues giving a permanent disposition, to guide our actions. Elevated to a supernatural level at baptism	Prudence		Counsel		Mercy
	Justice		Piety		Meekness
	Strength		Fortitude		
	Temperance		Fear of the Lord		Poor in spirit

God gives us all inspirations and we can choose to ignore or follow them but it is only through the sacraments that the gifts of the Holy Spirit become a permanent disposition on our souls forever (after Confirmation). These gifts of the Holy Spirit help our soul to progress in holiness. The gift of Fortitude helps us accomplish God's Will whereas the gift of Counsel helps us to discover His Will and raises our action to a supernatural level for our salvation. It is linked to the moral virtue of Prudence so that we can choose the right way to accomplish an action.

**Act of Man:** these are natural, you don't need to think about the end and so there is no moral action attached eg. when we eat, we don't need to think about what our bodies do with the food.

**Human Action:** body and soul act together; there is a constant dialogue between intelligence and will making a moral action. **Prudence** rules that choice. It is a moral virtue and needs to be practiced in everyday life and is helped by our intelligence and memory. Prudence helps us know that our actions are right according to natural and Divine Law. We can acquire prudence by ourselves (natural virtue), but it is raised to a Cardinal Virtue with Grace from God in Baptism.

**Prudence could be wrong in 2 ways:**

1. Aim can be good but the way we do it imprudent - e.g. To help a very poor old lady, I steal money to help.
2. What we do (action) is good but the motive is not - e.g. I help an old lady which is good, but my aim is to inherit her money.

When we are doing human actions, we obtain advice from others. **When we are doing His Will (Divine Action), we need Counsel or advice from God.** Counsel is linked to Prudence. As a gift of the Holy Spirit, He directs our human minds (with our weak human reason) to help us choose the right way. Counsel is a gentle 'push' in the right direction on the way to heaven. We still have complete freedom to heed that advice or not. We are not God's puppets as free will is a fundamental part of Divine Law.

The **Beatitude of Mercy** is attached to Counsel/(Prudence) to help us in our virtuous actions to be merciful. The Holy Ghost guides us, enlightening us about concrete situations, what to do, avoid, and not say. Mercy is necessary for salvation. The Holy Ghost does not give us all solutions, but we must use our brains and the beatitude of mercy. St James says those who are not merciful will not be shown mercy.