

Take-Home · Session 11

The Summit Gifts: Counsel, Understanding, Wisdom

What We Found

Counsel helps us judge what to do next: before a hard decision, it moves us to pray, weigh what the Church teaches, and ask wise advice. Understanding helps us see into the faith we already hold: a line of the Creed opens up instead of staying flat. Wisdom helps us judge and love everything in the light of God, tasting that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8).

Solomon's request pleased God, and James 1:5 throws the offer open: wisdom is given generously to any who ask; the summit Gifts are asked for, not seized.

The key distinction: the seven sanctifying Gifts come to all the baptized for the receiver's holiness (CCC 1266); charisms are apportioned individually as the Spirit wills, and no one should presume to possess them all (1 Corinthians 12:29-30). This cures both anxiety and pride.

Charisms are the Spirit's distributed graces for the common good, present in the Church's life today, extraordinary and simple alike (Lumen Gentium 12; CCC 799-801, 2003), discerned in communion with her pastors.

Voices of the Church

St. Catherine of Siena · *witness of her life, summary*

An unschooled laywoman whose counsel reached magistrates and Gregory XI himself, urging the papacy's return from Avignon to Rome: counsel as Spirit-aided judgment about the next concrete step.

St. Thomas Aquinas · *Summa Theologiae II-II qq. 8, 45, summary*

The scholar knows chastity by study, the chaste man by kinship; wisdom knows God the second way: charity makes the soul akin to divine things (St. Thomas' connaturality).

St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross · *The Science of the Cross, summary*

A philosopher who followed truth into the Church, came to savor what she had once only analyzed, and died a martyr at Auschwitz. Study joined to the love of God helps wisdom grow.

Live It This Week

This week's one thing. Pray James 1:5 daily over one named decision; consult one wise person before deciding.

- Optional: Sit fifteen minutes with one over-familiar line of the Creed.
- Come next week with this guide and a pen; if you must miss it, ask your leader to walk you through the booklet afterward.

Memory Verse

James 1:5 · If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all men generously and without reproaching, and it will be given him.

Before Next Session

Read Exodus 31:1-5 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-11.

Scripture this session: 1 Kings 3:5-14; James 1:5-8; 1 Corinthians 2:9-16; 12:4-11; Isaiah 11:2-4; 1 Corinthians 12:29-30; 13:1-3; Matthew 10:19-20 · Catechism: 799-801, 1830-1831, 2690