

The Motivational Gifts: Giving

Strengths

- is concerned about giving each person his or her due
- likes to conserve, recycle and reuse resources
- reaches out to the disadvantaged; personally inspired to support social justice
- has a strong drive to make a positive difference in the world
- is very conscious of overarching authority

Weaknesses

- can become tight in providing for personal needs and needs of his or her immediate family
- can be tempted to hoard resources
- may misjudge a situation and support the wrong underdog
- may lose sight of the individual in the supporting of causes
- may blame existing authority for what they consider inaction or bad action
- may miss the opportunity of releasing resources by being overly cautious

Gift of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom

- a sharing in God's ability to see and judge things as they really are
- unites truth and charity, justice, peace and repose in God

(Benedict XVI: *Principles of Catholic Theology*, p. 357)

(cf. Servais Pinckaers, O.P., *The Sources of Christian Ethics*, p. 154)

Besetting Sin: Greed

- is a disordered holding on to of resources instead of using them for some worthwhile purpose
- has a controlling passion for wealth and possessions associated with the lust for power

(cf. John A. Hardon, S.J., *Pocket Catholic Dictionary*, p. 37, 168)

Daughter sins include fraud, deception and violence

Examples in Scripture and History

the Blessed Virgin Mary

- pointed out the need for wine at Cana
- went to Elizabeth to help her who was 6 months with child
- the Mediatrix of all Graces
- praised God's justice for the poor and lowly in her Magnificat

Fr. Michael McGiveny

- founded the Knights of Columbus to help the poor
- established life insurance for widows

The Motivational Gifts: Serving

Strengths

- is concerned about meeting the need in any given situation
- uses personal energy and resources to meet that need
- does well in accomplishing short-term goals
- has a strong drive to see goodness triumph in individuals and situations
- fights for the person to be recognized and valued within the institutional system
- seeks to apply truth in a practical way

Weaknesses

- can give unsolicited and unwanted help
- often works beyond physical and emotional limitations
- becomes frustrated when things can't be accomplished quickly
- becomes resentful if work is not acknowledged
- is tempted to use lawless means to accomplish tasks
- can be reluctant to delegate necessary tasks to others

Gift of the Holy Spirit: Fortitude

- shows a firmness of will for doing good and persevering through trials
- suppresses inordinate fear and moderates reckless action

(cf. John A. Hardon, S.J., *Pocket Catholic Dictionary*, p. 153)

Besetting sin: sloth

- shows an unwillingness to exert oneself in the performance of duty because of the effort and sacrifice involved
- shows sorrow about God's Will and willfully resists His Will

(cf. John A. Hardon, S.J., *Pocket Catholic Dictionary*, p. 410)

Daughter sins include an attraction to unlawful things, tendency to despair, get discouraged, become spiteful and malicious

Examples in Scripture and history

Moses:

- tried to handle by himself all the problems that people were bringing to him, until his father-in-law, Jethro, suggested that he delegate some responsibility and share out the load;
- tried to relieve the oppression of the Hebrews by murdering an Egyptian
- patiently endured through 40 years of serving God's people in the wilderness and became a close, intimate friend of God

St Teresa of Calcutta

- personally went into the streets all over the world to care for the poorest of the poor
- concentrated on short-term goals to meet the practical needs of others, and didn't focus on overall organization as much

The Motivational Gifts: Exhorting

Strengths

- is concerned to help each person reach his/her full potential for the good of all
- can perceive how a goal may be reached through a step by step process
- gains insight through personal experience, often in occasions of intense suffering
- is deeply motivated to believe in and counsel others, usually on a one-to-one basis
- understands the need to ascertain and address the root causes of problems
- seeks to direct himself or herself and others towards the ultimate end

Weaknesses

- can set up unrealistic goals and expectations for themselves and others
- is tempted to become inflexible in his or her own assessments
- can inappropriately expose too much of his or her personal life
- can sacrifice family time to counsel others
- can be so sure of his or her grasp of a situation that he or she fails to take into account unknown factors
- gives up quickly on unresponsive people

Gift of the Holy Spirit: Counsel

- the person is receptive to God's right perspective of people and situations
- gives the person the ability to respond prudently in situations

Besetting Sin: Pride

- a disordered esteem of oneself, desiring to be considered better than one really is
- inclines the person to strive for perverse excellence that promotes one's own glory while disparaging others

(cf. John A. Hardon, S.J., *Pocket Catholic Dictionary*, p. 410)

Daughter sins include disobedience, presumption, discord, hypocrisy

Examples in Scripture and history

St Paul:

- was convinced of the justice of his persecution of Christians until his dramatic conversion
- constantly exhorted his readers to a better life
- learned the value of 'no' to his own will through a life of suffering for the gospel

St John Paul II:

- made step by step plans for the new millennium
- gained much insight through the periods of intense suffering in his life
- preferred to go places and meet people on a personal basis

St Catherine of Siena:

- exhorted the Pope to move back to Rome
- was attracted to extreme penances
- had profound spiritual experiences, including bearing the stigmata invisibly

The Motivational Gifts: Mercy

Strengths

- is concerned about relating to and including everyone for the sake of peace and unity
- works to create a comfortable environment
- empathizes with hurting people and desires to alleviate their pain
- has a strong motivation to be loyal to family and friends
- can easily see the good points on both sides of any question
- seeks to receive all that is good, true and beautiful

Weaknesses

- tends to rationalize his or her violation of boundaries in relationships and in external circumstances
- can become overly concerned with physical comfort
- tends to overly value emotional responses as opposed to rational responses
- can harbor bitterness over past hurts
- can be too tolerant of evil
- can become acquisitive towards things and people

Gift of the Holy Spirit: Piety

- shows honor and reverence towards those who are responsible for his/her existence or well being, namely God as Creator and Provider, parents close relatives, country or people (cf. John A. Hardon, S.J., Pocket Catholic Dictionary, p. 329)

Besetting Sin: Envy

- is sad at the good fortune or success of another by which one sees oneself as being personally deprived
- rejoices in the misfortune of others (cf. John A. Hardon, S.J., Pocket Catholic Dictionary, p. 128)

Daughter sins include gossip, detraction, bearing grudges

Examples from Scripture and History

St John the Apostle

- was the disciple whom Jesus loved, who lay close to Jesus' heart at the Last Supper
- he remained loyal to Jesus even to Calvary (or he was the first one to come back after also leaving?)
- he received the Blessed Virgin Mary into his home

St Francis of Assisi

- expressed great reverence for God by relying on Him for every need
- he joyfully labored to bring the comforting love of God into every situation and circumstance
- he embraced all of God's creatures great and small

Queen Esther

- she was used by the Lord to save her people through her piety
- she was singled out and taken care of by the head of the King's harem
- she put her need to the King in the context of hospitality

The Motivational Gifts: Teaching

Strengths

- values and upholds traditions for the benefit of society
- appreciates and uses resources as they are intended to be used
- will withstand criticism for the sake of the truth
- has a strong drive to pursue knowledge in a thorough and comprehensive fashion
- steadfastly adheres to truth by verifying sources and clarifying inaccuracies
- seeks to gain understanding by defining how the parts relate to the whole

Weaknesses

- can become enamored with traditions and fail to see when change is needed
- may become overly rigid and practical matters
- finds it difficult to make decisions when not convinced that enough facts are in
- tends to miss the signals of when it is time to stop
- can despise those lacking credentials
- can be tempted to live in a world of his or her own making

Gift of the Holy Spirit: Understanding

- facilitates a comprehensive grasp of the whole of reality, lending itself to systematic thought
- allows one to see the correct place of each individual truth in the whole

Besetting Sin: Gluttony

- has the disordered desire for the pleasure connected with food or drink
- tends toward five ways of overindulgence: too soon, too much, too expensively, too eagerly, too daintily (cf. John A. Hardon, S.J., *Pocket Catholic Dictionary*, p. 128)

Daughter sins include verbosity, vulgarity, dullness of mind

Examples from History

St. Thomas Aquinas

- wrote the *Summa Theologica* which aimed at addressing the whole of truth in a systematic way
- sought to define and delineate doctrine
- would often be abstracted and forgetful of his surroundings

Bishop Emeritus Father Benedict XVI

- is motivated to clarify doctrines and uphold traditions
- was one of the main driving forces behind the *Catechism* and the *Compendium*
- has a deep desire to devote his life to developing a systematic theology

St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)

- was converted through the truth of the Catholic Faith
- her writings help to clarify Christian philosophy
- she offered herself for the unity of Jews and Christians

The Motivational Gifts: Administration

Strengths

- is concerned with achieving the highest potential for the benefit of all
- pursues obtaining the best resources available
- is able to inspire and organize people to achieve a common goal
- has a strong creative drive and the ability to accomplish ambitious projects
- sees the need for strong authority and institutions to achieve goals
- seeks to delegate the necessary tasks so the greatest good may be accomplished

Weaknesses

- tends to become very frustrated when the goals are not set high enough
- can sabotage the larger goal by making acquiring the best resources an end in itself
- frequently devalues people by treating them as resources, or controlling through favoritism
- can be tempted to pursue power for its own sake
- can mis-use his power to delegate in order to avoid work

Gift of the Holy Spirit: Knowledge

- knowledge is the deep perception of things as they actually are, rightly ordered to their created purpose
- shows how we are to love God for His own and love our neighbor in God (cf. Servais Pinchers, O.P.: *The Sources of Christian Ethics*, p.153)

Besetting Sin: Anger

- is disordered, with uncontrolled hatred and passion not under the sway of reason

Daughter sins include quarrelsomeness, blasphemy, abuse

Examples from Scripture and history

Jacob

- valued the birthright more than his older brother, Esau
- was successful in business ventures over and above his father-in-law, Laban, who tried to outwit him
- had favorites among his sons
- tenaciously wrestled with God and received a new name, Israel, “he who strives with God”
- received the inheritance promised by the Lord and was the father of the twelve tribes of Israel

Michelangelo

- executed the ambitious project of the Sistine Chapel ceiling in two years in the face of skepticism and rivalry
- had a solitary nature and was impatient of personal needs such as eating and sleeping
- infuse his artwork with *terribilita*, a sense of awe-inspiring grandeur

The Motivational Gifts: Prophecy

Strengths

- is compelled to promote the common good by speaking out on issues of right and wrong
- does not allow an apparent lack of resources to obstruct a project
- is able to persuade and motivate large groups of people
- is strongly impelled to live a righteous life, admitting his own faults easily and willing to suffer for what is right
- looks to and pursued the highest ideals
- seeks to proclaim the truth in all its manifold richness

Weaknesses

- can make hasty judgments about people and situations
- tend to make rash decisions
- can use powers of persuasion to deceive and manipulate people
- is tempted to harsh self-condemnation
- can become cynical when people fall short of ideals
- can despair of the triumph of the truth

Gift of the Holy Spirit: Fear of the Lord

- is selfless fear that dreads offending, displeasing or betraying the loved one, God
- gives profound esteem for God's presence and hatred of evil (cf. John A. Hardon, S.J.: *Pocket Dictionary*, p. 149)

Besetting Sin: Lust

- is the pursuit of sensual pleasure in violation of its divinely ordered purpose

Daughters sins include self-love, hatred of God, blindness of mind

Examples from Scripture and history

King David

- inspired and motivated the people of Israel to trust in God, by his courageous deeds against the Philistines
- sinned with Bathsheba, repented immediately when it was pointed out, and then wrote a Psalm that profoundly expresses the human heart seeking mercy and forgiveness
- expressed in the Psalms his worship of God and his deep desire to relate justly with him

St. Peter the Apostle

- made a bold proclamations of faith and was chosen by Jesus Christ to be the rock upon which He built his church
- sinned by denying Jesus Christ and then deeply repented
- was the spokesman for the Apostles and moved 3000 people to repentance by his preaching on Pentecost