The background of the entire image is a vibrant, textured blue, resembling a close-up of a sky or a water surface. In the upper left quadrant, a white dove is depicted in flight, its wings and tail feathers rendered in a fiery orange and red color, suggesting it is being consumed by or rising from flames. The dove is positioned as if descending towards the title.

GIFTS
OF THE
HOLY
SPIRIT

ANNOINTED

Written by **Pope Francis**





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Compiled and edited by
Jaymie Stuart Wolfe



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FOREWORD

6

After Jesus ascended to heaven, his original disciples and the Blessed Virgin Mary gathered in the Upper Room. There, they waited for the Holy Spirit to come as Jesus had promised. Like you, they may have wondered if the Spirit really would come, or what difference it could make in their lives. A few days later, they learned the truth. God kept his promise (he always does!), and the Holy Spirit changed everything. Cowards became courageous, simple people became wise and knowledgeable, prayer became dynamic, and the mission of bringing the Good News of salvation in Christ took off like a rocket. We celebrate that amazing event every Pentecost. But we also know that God wants to give each and every one of us a *personal* Pentecost. That is what Confirmation is meant to be.

You have been—or are about to be—Confirmed. When you receive the sacrament of Confirmation, you will be more than just a full-fledged Catholic. You will be anointed with the oil of Chrism, and with a fresh outpouring of God’s Holy Spirit. That’s something to be excited about! Why? Because living our faith isn’t something we can do on our own. Every



INTRODUCTION BY POPE FRANCIS

The Holy Spirit is the soul, the lifeblood of the Church and of every individual Christian. He is the Love of God who makes his dwelling place in our hearts and enters into communion with us. The Holy Spirit abides with us, and stays with us, always. He is always within us, in our hearts.

The Spirit himself is the most excellent “gift of God,” and he in turn communicates various spiritual gifts to those who receive him. The Church identifies *seven gifts*, a number which symbolizes *fullness* and *completeness*. These are the gifts we learn about when we prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation. They are also the gifts we ask for at Pentecost in the ancient prayer that is called the Sequence of the Holy Spirit. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are *wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and the fear of the Lord*.

WISDOM

From the Teaching of Pope Francis—April 9, 2014



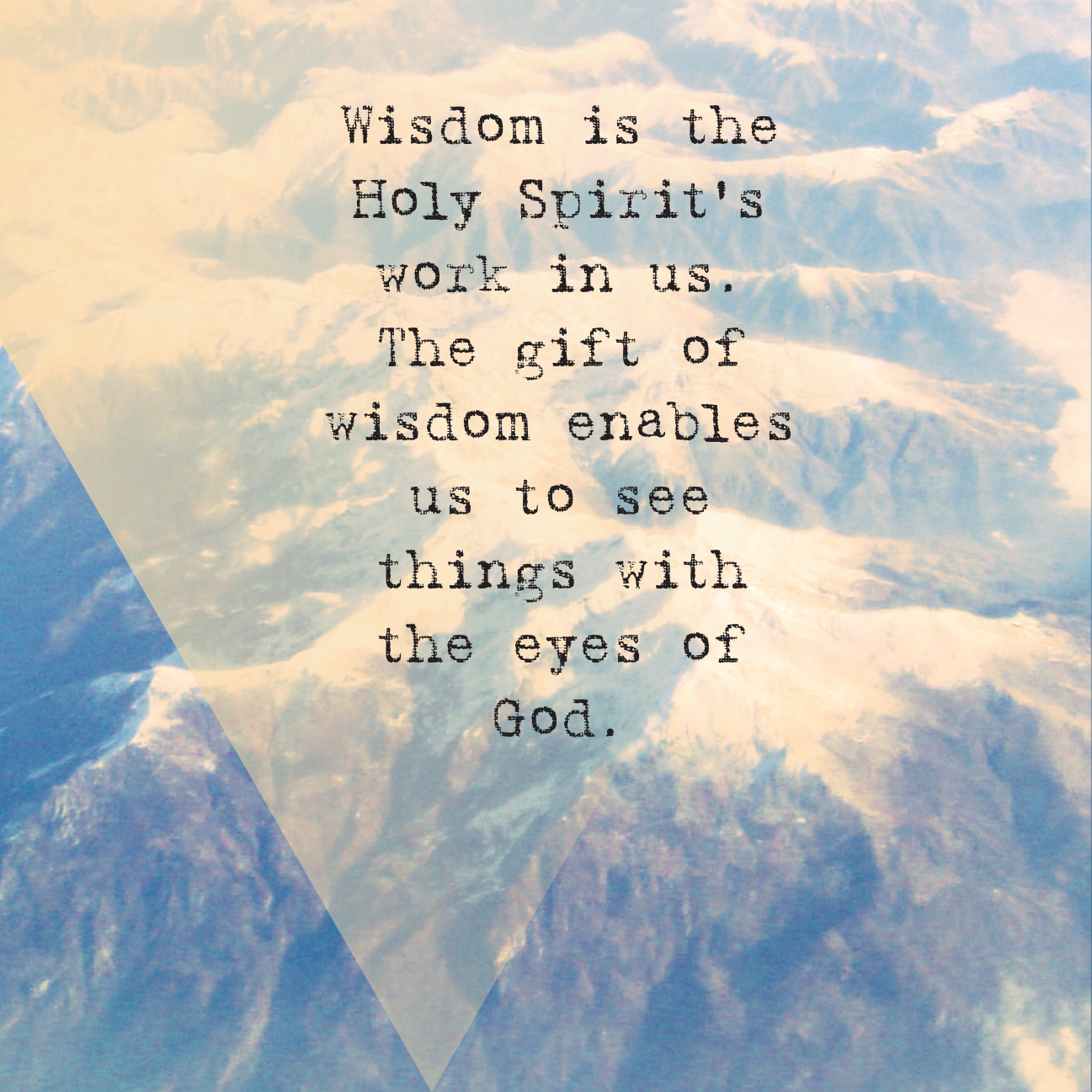
The first gift
of the Holy Spirit
is **wisdom.**



But it is not simply human wisdom, which is the fruit of knowledge and experience. . . . Wisdom is the grace of being able *to see everything with the eyes of God*. . . . It is to see the world; to see situations, circumstances, problems, everything through God's eyes.

Sometimes we see things according to our own likes and dislikes, or perhaps with love or hate or envy or whatever is in our own hearts. . . . But this is not *God's* perspective.



An aerial photograph of a vast mountain range, likely the Himalayas, with snow-capped peaks and deep valleys. A large, semi-transparent blue triangle is overlaid on the left side of the image, pointing towards the center. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

Wisdom is the
Holy Spirit's
work in us.
The gift of
wisdom enables
us to see
things with
the eyes of
God.

Obviously, this gift comes from *intimacy with God*; from the close relationship we have as children of God the Father. When we have this relationship, the Holy Spirit gives us the gift of wisdom.



The Holy Spirit . . . makes the Christian “wise.” Not in the sense that we have answers for everything, but in the sense that we “know” God. We know how God acts, when something is of God and when it is not of God, because we have the wisdom God places in our hearts.



The heart of a wise person

has a *taste* for God and savors him.

And how important it is that there are
Christians like this in our communities!
Everything in them speaks of God and
becomes a beautiful and living sign of his
presence and his love.

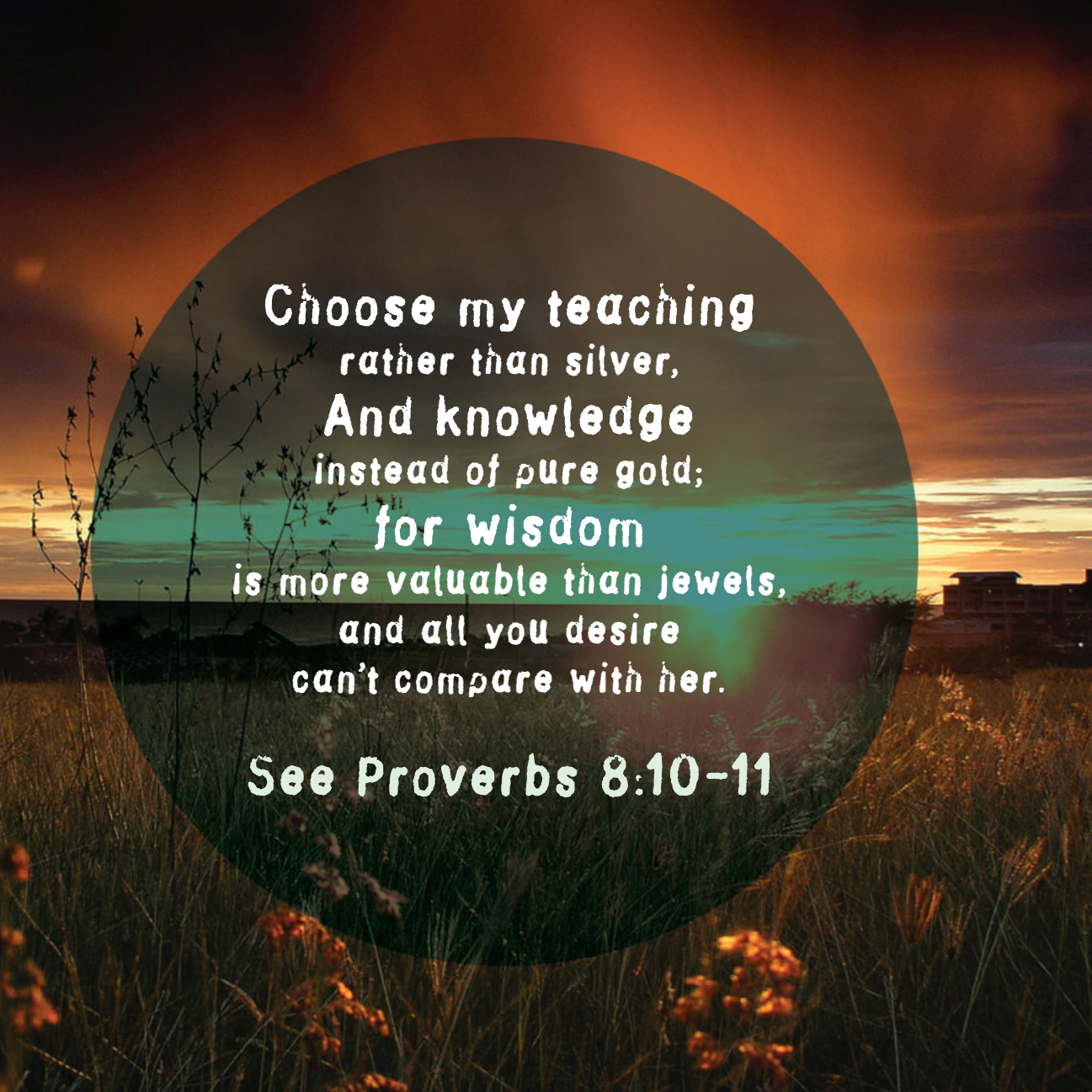




This is the wisdom the Holy Spirit gives freely to us, and we can all have it. . . . We only have to ask the Holy Spirit for it.

Wisdom cannot be learned; it is a gift of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we must ask the Lord to fill us with the Holy Spirit and to give us the gift of wisdom. The wisdom of God teaches us to see with God's eyes, to feel with God's heart, and to speak with God's words.





Choose my teaching
rather than silver,
And knowledge
instead of pure gold;
for wisdom
is more valuable than jewels,
and all you desire
can't compare with her.

See Proverbs 8:10-11



Come, Spirit of Wisdom.

Show me the power and beauty of heavenly things.
Teach me to love them more than all the passing joys
and satisfactions of this earth. Grant that I may always
put the things of God first in my life until the day when
I am united with you forever in heaven. Amen.

