

of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord, and shall make Him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord."

*Q.* What is the meaning of this passage?

*A.* That the Holy Spirit in His sevenfold strength should rest upon Him.

*Q.* But at first sight there seem to be only six spirits mentioned here, though the last is mentioned twice; why do you say sevenfold?

*A.* Because in the earliest translation of the passage, made in the third century before Christ, the last gift is not mentioned twice, but two separate gifts are enumerated, which make up the seven; and the Church of Christ has ever understood this passage to speak of the Holy Ghost in His sevenfold fulness.

*Q.* Do we find this sevenfold character ascribed to the Holy Ghost elsewhere in Holy Scripture?

*A.* Yes; in Revelation i, 4: "The seven spirits which are before the Throne;" and again in the prophet Zechariah (iii, 9; iv, 10): The seven eyes are explained to be "the eyes of the LORD." These passages are understood of the Holy Ghost, sevenfold in His operation.

*Q.* Why is the number seven employed?

*A.* Because in Holy Scripture seven is employed to represent completeness, fulness, and perfection.

*Q.* Are the sevenfold gifts prayed for in the Confirmation Service?