

# BIBLICAL EVIDENCE OF THE SACRAMENTS

The sacraments celebrated by the Church are signs of grace that make a deeper reality present to us. One reality we encounter through the sacraments is Christ's presence in the Church community, his Body. This recognition of Christ's presence in the community should lead to a stronger awareness of being sent on mission to engage in love-inspired action in the world.

As Pope Benedict XVI notes in *Deus Caritas Est* (God Is Love), the celebration of the sacraments and the ministry of love are "inseparable." Love in action, he says, is "an indispensable expression" of the Church's being (no. 25).

– USCCB Sacraments and Social Mission Living the Gospel, Being Disciples

One of the greatest myths and misconceptions about our Catholic faith is that the seven sacraments are not found anywhere in Scripture. Let's get right to the point: this is an absolutely false assertion.

The sacraments were instituted by Jesus, and they were then formally carried out by His apostles and handed on to their successors, the bishops. All of the sacraments have a clear biblical basis, intrinsically and implicitly. A sacrament is defined as "an outward sign, instituted by Christ, to bring grace. Always remember that the Catholic Church is founded on Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. The two work hand-in-hand to make known to us the fullness of God's revelation, through the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

In fact, the need to adhere to both Scripture and Tradition is itself, a biblical truth and Scriptural command, "*Therefore, brothers, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught, either by an oral statement or by a letter of ours*" (2 Thessalonians 2:15).

Below are some of the Scriptural references we use when giving a Scriptural basis for the Catholic sacraments.

– Courtesy of the GreatAdventureOnline.com

The following scriptures focus on the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation enriches the baptized with the strength of the Holy Spirit so that they can better witness to Christ in word and deed. Anointed by the Holy Spirit at Confirmation, Christians strengthen their bond with the Church and become better equipped to carry out the Church's mission of love and service.



# **CONFIRMATION** *Strengthened by the Spirit, Called to Action*

## **Old Testament**

- Isaiah 11:1-4 – “The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him”
- Isaiah 42:1-3 – I have endowed my servant with my Spirit
- Isaiah 61:1-3, 6, 8-9 – “The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me”
- Ezekiel 36:24-28 – I will place a new Spirit in your midst.
- Joel 3:2 – I will pour out my Spirit on all mankind.

## **Gospel**

- Mark 1: 9-11 – He saw the Spirit descending and remaining on him.
- Luke 4, 16-22 – The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.
- Luke 10: 21-24 – I bless you, Father, for revealing these things to children.
- John 7, 37-39 – From the heart of God shall flow fountains of living water. (holy Spirit)
- John 14:15-17 – “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth.”
- John 14:23-26 – “The Advocate, the holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name—he will teach you everything and remind you of all that [I] told you.”
- John 15:18-21,26-27 – The Spirit of truth who issues from the Father, will be my witness.
- John 16:5-7, 12-13 – The Spirit of truth will lead you to the complete truth.
- John 19: 31-35 – He opens his side and out came blood and water.

## **New Testament**

- Acts 1:8 – “But you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
- Acts 2:1-6, 14: 22-23 – They were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak.
- Acts 8:1, 4, 14-17 – They laid hands on them and they received the holy Spirit.”
- Acts 10:1, 33-34, 38-44 – The Holy Spirit came down on all those listening to the word of God.
- Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 – The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.
- Romans 8:14-17 – The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God.
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-13 – There is one and the same Spirit giving to each as he wills.
- Galatians 5:16-17, 22-23, 24-25 – “I say, then: live by the Spirit and you will certainly not gratify the desire of the flesh... In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.”
- Ephesians 1:3, 4, 13-19 – You have been signed with the seal of the Holy Spirit of the promise.
- Ephesians 4: 1-6 – There is one body, one Spirit, and one baptism.