

IT'S YOUR SERVE

Spiritual Gifts and You!

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Study # 4

“THE GIFT OF MERCY!”

Romans 12:8

Every Christian is expected to respond to emergencies and be merciful. This is a role that reflects the fruit of the Spirit. But, those with the gift of mercy make compassion and kindness their lifestyle.

I. WHAT IS THE GIFT OF MERCY? Romans 12:8

- The root word comes from the Greek term *eleeo* meaning, “to be kind, to show mercy.”
- It's when one feels sympathy with the misery of others; sympathy in action.

Defining the Gift of Mercy

“The gift of mercy is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to feel authentic understanding and compassion for individuals, both Christian and non-Christian, who suffer distressing physical, mental or emotional problems, and to translated that compassion into cheerfully-done deeds that reflect Christ's love and soothe the suffering.”

- It's having pity on people in misery
- Those with this spiritual gift engage in one-to-one relationships
- It's a practical gift that offers compassion and unconditional love

Matthew's Account of the Ultimate Mercy – Giver

The Two Blind Men – Matthew 9:27 – 30a

The Demon-possessed woman – Matthew 15:22 – 28

The Lunatic son – Matthew 17:14 – 18

The Two Blind Men – Matthew 20:30 – 34

II. THE MERCY – GIVER MAY BECOME MERCILESS!

When the gifted person operates outside the realm of the Holy Spirit's empowerment, here are a few tragic results:

- 1st. You may avoid conflict

2nd. You may step in to provide relief too soon

3rd. You may compromise

4th. You may become selfish

5th. You may procrastinate

6th. You minister out of duty, not love

III. CONFIRMING THE GIFT OF MERCY (Romans 12:15)

Barnabas (Acts 4:36; 9:26 – 27; 15:36 – 39); Epaphroditus (Phil. 2:25 – 30); The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30b – 37)

Affirming this Spiritual Gift in YOU! (Check the appropriate statements)

_____ I will not hesitate to change my plans to go to the aid of a person in distress, even if it conflicts with previous obligations I have already made.

_____ I find myself spending many hours with distressed persons.

_____ I am quick to sympathize with the misery and heartache of another person.

_____ I feel a deep sense of calling to quietly “stand by” hurting people.

_____ Ministering to those in anguish is a regular part of my lifestyle.

_____ Though not a qualified counselor, I find ways to “comfort” people.

_____ I am in the background attending to details during the death of a friend/loved one

_____ I am sensitive to the unspoken needs of others.

_____ I possess a unique capacity to know where people are in pain.

_____ I enjoy preventing unnecessary suffering.

_____ Sensing stress in people is my forte`.

_____ I am always ready to go into caring action.

_____ I love being a victorious note in the sad song of people’s lives.

APPLICATIONS ARE YOU A MERCY – GIVER?

1. Slow down and listen to hurting people God places in your path.
2. Be cheerful in your caregiving.
3. Do not become victimized by someone’s pain.
4. Tell someone you genuinely care about them.