SPIRITUAL GIFTS
“Examining The Gift Of Mercy”
ROMANS 12:4-8 JOHN 19:26-27

The God that created us, desires that His church be a church in which each and every person is using and exercising their spiritual gifts and abilities. The fact is, each and every saved person has a spiritual gift, but we don’t have the same spiritual gifts, therefore our approach to life, and even church will be different.

When Paul was talking to the saints at Rome, he reminded each person listening that there were differing gifts, and those differing gifts were given according as God desired. The God that saved us, has called us and commanded us to use our God-given gifts for His glory.

The more we use our spiritual gifts for the glory of God, we find a number of things happening in our lives: 1) Life is more fulfilling and enriching, 2) People will be drawn to you according to your spiritual gift, 3) You will be richly rewarded by the Lord Jesus for making wise use of your life, time, spiritual gifts and abilities.

Probably there was no one that demonstrated more mercy among Jesus disciples that the apostle John. It was at the cross where Jesus said to Mary, “Mary, behold thy son”, and to John, Jesus said, “Behold thy mother”. While others would walk away and leave Jesus, John was right there to the end. John was one who expressed kindness, tenderness, compassion and care.

When the subject of mercy is brought up today, many times, men have little desire to be the “ones that show mercy”. But it was the one with the gift of mercy that God allowed to pen the Revelation. MERCY IS A BIG DEAL TO THE GOD OF ALL MERCY!!! But what are the overall characteristics of a person who has the gift of mercy?

1. A PERSON WITH THE GIFT OF MERCY HAS THE ABILITY TO FEEL AND SENSE AN ATMOSPHERE OF STRESS. A person with this spiritual gift has the ability to talk to others, and sense where there are emotionally. While this person is not attempting to “be nosy”, they simply have been gifted by God with an “awareness” of others needs in order that they can be of help and assistance. The person with the gift of mercy has the ability to involve himself in another’s life, and may even ask questions of personal concern.

   In the life of John, he simply stood by the cross in love for Jesus, and expressed his concern by standing His Lord- even though he could do nothing. Because a person with the gift of mercy is “only out to help”, God has equipped them with a radar to pick up on the hurts and heartaches of other people. Because the truth is, there are countless lives that we come across in a days times who are wounded and bleeding emotionally. While it is not always easy to listen to others who are hurting, that person with the gift of mercy is on the cutting edge of helping, and being a blessing to the lives of others.

2. A PERSON WITH THE GIFT OF MERCY IS ATTRACTED TO PEOPLE WITH EMOTIONAL DIFFICULTIES. While a person with the gift of prophecy is message oriented and the person with the gift of service is project oriented, a person with the gift of mercy is oriented to help others, and often times it is a person who may be suffering emotionally, or even physically.

   Because of the warped society that we live in, a person with the gift of mercy may be misinterpreted by others- but in their heart, they are only out to help, because they see that as “their disposition” and “their ability”. A person with the gift of mercy doesn’t look at the outside, but looks at the heart and hurts of others, and if someone is being taken advantage of, they will potentially lash out in behalf of that suffering soul. A person with this gift doesn’t look for someone to blame for the pain, but sees himself or herself as “there to help”. They may even potentially get in God’s way, when He is in the process of breaking a person for usability-because they are “help-oriented”.

3. A PERSON WHO HAS THE GIFT OF MERCY DESIRES TO REMOVE THE HURTS OF OTHERS. A person with the gift of mercy cannot stand to see anyone hurt, therefore they will do whatever necessary to prevent others from hurting. Ex: If money is need...money is provided...if food is needed...food is provided.

   However, when God is using hurt to bring someone to brokenness, a person with the gift of mercy cannot stand to see the hurt, therefore he or she can unconsciously be a detriment as God is working in the lives of others. What the person with the gift of mercy sees as “pain”, God sees that as essential to grow his saint into Christ-likeness. For the person with the gift of exhortation, he is aware that pain is essential for spiritual growth, but the person with the gift of mercy, may not be able to see that. Sometimes those with the gift of mercy can be shortsided...in viewing the big picture. Because the person with the gift of mercy desires to alleviate the pain, and the person with the gift of exhortation desires that spiritual growth take place, there is a potential that these two individual may from time to time clash- not because they desire to, but because of the way God has gifted them.

   While a person with the gift of mercy desires to remove the hurts, if he is not careful he or she can get in God's way of working in the life of
others. Because the person with the gift of exhortation knows that pain is essential for growth, he may say to mercy, don't get in the way. While the person with mercy says, "I cannot bear to see them hurt." Mercy says remove the problem, but exhortation says grow during the problem.

4. **A PERSON WITH THE GIFT OF MERCY HAS A GREATER CONCERN FOR THE MENTAL DISTRESS OF OTHERS THAN THE PHYSICAL DISTRESS.** A person who is gifted with the gift of mercy doesn't focus on the body, but rather their focus is on the heart and spirit of a person. They will reach out with loving and tender arms to listen and to be sensitive to the needs of someone who is hurting emotionally, and mentally. A person with mercy is concerned about the inner person.

The person with mercy reaches out with love and caring to help the inner person. While their motivations may be misunderstood by others, the fact stands that before God, their motives are as pure as gold tried by fire.

5. **A PERSON WITH THE GIFT OF MERCY IS SENSITIVE TO HOW WORDS CAN HURT OTHERS.** A person who has the gift of mercy is very careful in what they say, because they are aware of the power of words. *James 3:8* But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

When they see someone else being talked about then they may boldly confront the people who are talking, because they have a deep sensitivity to how words can hurt others. For example: a mother with the gift of mercy who hears others talking about a particular family will speak up in no uncertain terms and say something in defense of that family being talked about because she can put herself in that situation and can feel the hurt and pain. A person with the gift of mercy begins to hurt immediately when words are said that should not have been said or when there is the slightest hint of criticism.

6. **A PERSON WITH THE GIFT OF MERCY MAY REACT HARSHLY WHEN FRIENDS ARE REJECTED.** Because of the nature of a person with the gift of mercy, they cannot stand back and watch friends hurt. As a matter of fact, they may raise up at react rather harshly because of the hurt that has been caused to their friends. A person with the gift of mercy…may even seem unkind when others in need are being overlooked…why…because of their gift of mercy.

Why does a person who is gifted with mercy do this? Because they are very sensitive in nature. While some may think they live based on emotions that is not the truth. The fact is, within them is a deep sensitivity to words and what words can do. What may role off the back of another person, the person with the gift of mercy takes to heart. Caution: Parents, listen, if you have a child who you see the gift of mercy in their life, then watch out. Because things that you say that should not be taken that seriously, will be taken very seriously by a person with the gift of mercy.

7. **A PERSON WITH THE GIFT OF MERCY NEEDS TO SENSE LOVE AND HAS A GREATER VULNERABILITY WHEN THERE IS LACK OF LOVE EXPRESSED.** While each of us need to sense that we are loved, a person with mercy needs to sense love in a deep way. When they do not sense love from others around them, they are hurt more than words could express. The fact is they may lash out, when in truth, they are only attempting to say, "Please love me and show me love."

A person with this gift needs to sense the protective care of others around them. For example, a child who has the gift of mercy, wants to be shown love, and care from both parents. Not only do they need tender love and care, but they are frequently hurt by others. Why? Because their hearts are so sensitive to what others say. Therefore, when you see someone who gets hurt at something you say, be careful when you say, "You are just being touchy," or you are just over reacting. Remember a person with the gift of mercy must be sensitive, because that is the way God has designed them for His glory.

8. **A PERSON WITH THE GIFT OF MERCY MAY BE PRONE TO AVOID FIRMNESS.** Because of the nature of a person with the gift of mercy, they may be prone to avoid any type of firmness until they are given proof of how the firmness will help. As a matter of fact, they will go to extreme measures in order not to hurt others. Because the person with the gift of mercy is concerned about others, they may get right in the way of God working on someone else in order to prevent hurt. A person with the gift of mercy is a hindrance when God is attempting to use their mess to teach them and to train and to break them into greater tools of usability.

9. **A PERSON WITH THE GIFT OF MERCY CLOSES HIS SPIRIT WHEN THEIR IS INSINCERITY.** A person who has the gift of mercy will close his spirit down to others who are hypocritical and are fakes. Because this person can't stand to see any insincerity! It is not that they want to close the curtain on others, but rather they cannot stand to associate with individuals who are insincere and hypocritical in their actions.

Has God given you the spiritual gift of mercy? The truth is, if we are saved, we have a gift and the call of God the Father is to exercise our gift for His glory and for the betterment of the body of Christ.