

The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit

This week we're going to study a very beautiful gift—*the gift of mercy*!

1) The gift of mercy

"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them...he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness."

Romans 12:6 & 8

The word "*mercy*" here in Romans 12:8 is written in the verb form in the original Greek text, which means *the gift of mercy* is **active**. Specifically, it means that the person with *the gift of mercy* is able to share in the pain of others, and then acts to meet that need whether it be emotional, physical, material, or spiritual.

2) During His earthly ministry Jesus operated all of the spiritual gifts that we have studied, including *the gift of mercy*. From your reading of the Gospels list some examples of when Jesus extended a gift of mercy.

3) Do you have the gift of mercy?

Jesus told *all* of His followers...

"Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful." ~ Luke 6:36

In Romans 12 the apostle Paul describes the unique *gift of mercy* that is given to **some** believers ("*Having then gifts **differing** according to the grace that is given to us*" – vs. 6), yet Jesus commands **all** of us to extend mercy to others.

How can you tell if God has given you *the gift of mercy*?

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- 4) What gift(s) has the Holy Spirit given you?

According to 1Corinthians 12:4-7 every believer has been given at least one spiritual gift by the Holy Spirit. The question of course is, *“how can I know what spiritual gift(s) I have been given?”* The Bible doesn’t give us a formula for discovering our gifts, however, there are some principles we see in Scripture that will help us to discern our gifting.

Step 1 - find out what spiritual gifts are available.

Step 2 – be open to receive whatever gift(s) the Holy Spirit wants to give you.

Step 3 – pray for God’s guidance and wisdom to know what gift(s) He has given you.

Step 4 – step out in faith and use the gift that He has given you.

Step 5 – ask for feedback from trusted mature brothers and sisters.

- 5) The spiritual gifts

Review the spiritual gifts below that we have studied over the last few months and circle any gift(s) that you believe God has given you (**don’t show your work to the others in your group**).

Apostle (Jude) Prophet (Agabus) Evangelist (Philip) Pastor (Timothy)

Teacher (Apollos) Administration (Joseph) Exhortation (Barnabas) Giving (The widow)

Helps (Joanna) Faith (Sarah) Mercy (Mary of Bethany) Miracles (Peter)

Healing (Elisha) Discerning of Spirits (Paul) Word of Knowledge (Joseph)

Word of Wisdom (Joseph) Tongues (the disciples) Interpretation of Tongues (Daniel?)

Prophecy (Philip’s daughters)

- 6) Without showing your answers in question #5 to anyone in your group, ask the group if they have observed any specific spiritual gift in your life and if so what it is.
- 7) Pray for each other that God would confirm what gift(s) He has given you, for opportunities to use that gift, and for the faith to begin using it.