



The Spiritual Gift of Mercy

Definition

The gift of Mercy is the God-given ability to feel deeply for those in physical, spiritual, or emotional need and then demonstrate actions to meet those needs.

Gifts in Action

A man from Samaria became the hero of a story Jesus told to answer the question “Who is my neighbor?” The parable tells of how a man on the road to Jericho was attacked by robbers and left to die. Both a priest and Levite passed by without helping, but a “certain Samaritan” took pity on the wounded traveler and gave him aid. This story demonstrates how those gifted in Mercy have compassion that seeks to help anyone in need. (Luke 10:30-37)

Scripture References for Mercy

- Romans 12:8
- Mark 9:41
- Matthew 25:34-40

People With This Gift Like to...

- Alleviate the source of pain or discomfort in suffering people.
- Concern themselves with issues that cause harm to or oppress people.
- Address the needs of the lonely, neglected, or forgotten.

Characteristics of People With Mercy

- Empathetic
- Caring
- Responsive
- Kind
- Compassionate
- Sensitive

Potential Ways to Use the Gift of Mercy

- Hospital or shut-in visitation
- Homeless ministry
- Food bank assistance
- Involvement in recovery programs, prison ministry, or social justice causes

RECOMMENDED READING:

When Helping Hurts by Steve Corbett

Toxic Charity - Robert Lupton

A Chance to Die - Elisabeth Elliott

Connecting - Larry Crabb