

SERIES: God's Dream Team
Message: Live a Balanced Life!
The Functional Gift of Mercy

November 1st, 2009

Text: Romans 12: 4, 6, 8 & 15

⁴For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function ... ⁶Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: ... ⁸the one who shows mercy, with cheerfulness ... ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep!"

Gifts: James 1:7 Around 30% of Christians have the functional gift of mercy.

"The functional gift of mercy is the desire to identify and feel with others, to comfort them and to deliver them from distress." -- Dr. L.D. Thomas

I. NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLE OF THE FUNCTIONAL GIFT

OF MERCY: LUKE

2 Timothy 4:11

II. 12 DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF PEOPLE WITH THE FUNCTIONAL GIFT OF MERCY

1. Mercy givers are extremely SENSITIVE. They have great EMPATHY, and a deep appreciation for BEAUTY.
Luke 1:46-55, 67-79
2. They are very interested in PEOPLE, and have an innate LOVE for others.
3. They are especially attracted to persons in DISTRESS.
4. They like to emphasize the ministry of HEALING above other aspects of ministry.
5. Mercy givers are primarily concerned with healing the EMOTIONAL, mental, and relational anguish of others.
Luke 10:25-37
6. They tend to be INDECISIVE because they do not want to hurt the feelings of others.

7. While they have extreme concern for the OUTCASTS and those in distress, they have a tendency to ignore the fact that those who seem "to have it all together" also hurt and have just as many needs.

8. Mercy givers are the most ACCEPTING of all Christians.

9. There is a basic TENDERNESS and KINDNESS in a person with the gift of mercy.

10. Other people may tend to think of them as persons who

"BUTT IN" where they have no business.

11. They are very SACRIFICIAL people.

12. They are very aware of others who also possess genuine

SENSITIVITY and are drawn to them.

What good thing about this person might the devil try to exploit and twist into a fault in order to render this person powerless and make him or her of no use to God and His kingdom?

III. THE COMMON DANGER TO ALL WHO HAVE THE GIFT OF MERCY:

MERCY GIVERS TEND TO BE MORE FEELING ORIENTED THAN RATIONAL.

IV. GOD'S ANSWER FOR THIS DANGER: Romans 12:15

¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep!"

That is, LIVE a BALANCED life!

Point: Mercy givers must balance their lives with a cheerful heart and a rejoicing spirit, or their lives will become a "poor me" pity party.

CLOSE: 2 Corinthians 1: 3-4