

# Understanding Spiritual Gifts

Part 16

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**River of Life**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

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## Romans 12:1-8

*<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. <sup>4</sup> Just as each of us has one body with many members, and those members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. <sup>7</sup> If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. (NIV)*

## *Leadership or Administration*

1. The Greek word for the spiritual gift of leadership is *proistemi*. This word means to lead, to assist, to protect and to care for others.
2. Leadership or Administration or Management
3. Definition:
  - *Literally, this gift means to stand before and diligently lead*
  - *It can mean to rule over or manage*
  - This is used in context elsewhere in Scripture of a man leading his household
  - In the spirit of a servant-leader as Christ modeled
    - In the Church, this role is the management aspect and team leadership aspects of pastoral ministry*
    - This is different from the teaching role although it involves showing leadership discipleship*

## 6. *Leadership or Administration*

### Examples from Scripture

- *1 Corinthians 12: 28 And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration (proistemi), and those speaking in different kinds of tongues.*
- *Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. 12 Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over (proistemi) you in the Lord and who admonish you. 13 Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.*

## *Leadership or Administration*

1. This gift is tied to the office of eldership in [1 Timothy 3:1](#) *Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. [2](#) Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, [3](#) not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. [4](#) He must manage (proistemi) his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. [5](#) (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) [6](#) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. [7](#) He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. (NIV)*
2. I also believe this is a gift that has application in the in others spheres of life: business, medicine, the arts, sports, education, etc.
  - To lead as Christ did in the marketplace: By example, with concern to equip and care for others, with integrity

## *Showing Mercy*

### 1. Definition

- The ability to sense and respond to the emotional and spiritual needs of others.
- *A supernatural discernment to sense people's hurts and spiritual needs and to respond with love and compassion.*

2. The mature person with this gift is kind and gentle and can function well with God-given boundaries

3. People with the gift of mercy can be powerful witnesses by tending the hearts of those who are broken and need God's powerful intervention

4. They are often people very effective in prayer ministry and intercession. Jesus was often moved by compassion and so are people with this gift!

5. How to do it - If it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully

## A person with the gift of mercy's strengths:

1. *To comfort the grieving*
2. *Showing compassion*
3. *To patiently listen and give counsel*
4. *They are gifted at expressing empathy, listening and understanding*
5. *They represent God's heart in a practical way to others*
6. *People with the gift of mercy love the unlovable and often tend the hearts of people forgotten by society and even the church*
7. *Because of their empathy – they can often address issues of sin and brokenness with a tenderness and humility that allows others to respond well.*

## Warnings and cautions to a person with the gift of mercy:

1. *They can easily allow others to become dependent on them, when the individuals should be dependent on God. They often become rescuers of those who do not need to be rescued.*
2. *The Danger of identifying with others and taking up offense on their behalf*
3. *The danger of taking God's place and thinking they can SAVE someone*
4. *Mercy gift people need to guard their spiritual and emotional boundaries in the light of God's truth*
5. *Mercy gift people need to allow Holy Spirit to work through them – Danger of serving out of soul rather than spirit*
  - *When a person leads soulishly rather than spiritually they often feel burned out after ministry*



## Romans 12:1-8

9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

13 Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. 20 On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. *(NIV)*

*The Ways of God: All of Romans 12 and the rest of the Book of Romans is a continuation of the thoughts expressed in Romans 12:1-2*

1. Don't be conformed to the world's image – but be transformed by the renewing of your mind
2. Lay your self down as a living sacrifice
3. Learning to serve one another by finding your design and giftings is part of this walking together and working together in unity.
4. Now Paul goes on to define other ways of God issues that differ from the worldly pattern

## *The Ways of God*

## *The Ways of the Sinful Nature*

Love must be sincere

Living life with surface relationships that are not based in truth

Hate what is evil and be devoted to what is good

Make no distinction between good and evil. God's word makes clear what he approves and disapproves

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love

Look out for your own interests

Honor others above yourselves

Seek to promote yourself, even if it is at the expense of others

Never be lacking in zeal but keep your spiritual fervor

Go with the mainstream

Be joyful in hope

Complaining spirit that always gives way to darkness and unbelief

Patient in affliction

Complaining and believing God has given up on you when things get tough

## *The Ways of God*

## *The Ways of the Sinful Nature*

Faithful in prayer

Inconsistent intimacy with God

Share with people who are in need

Ignore the needs of others

Practice hospitality

Hospitality is not important

Bless those who persecute you and do not curse

Curse those who hurt you

Rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn

No empathy or sensitivity toward others

Live in harmony with one another

People need to learn to get along with me

Do not be proud – be willing to associate with people of low position

Associate with those who can advance your standing in society

## *The Ways of God*

Do not be conceited

Do not repay evil for evil

Be careful to do what is right

As far as it depends on you – live at peace with all men

Do not take revenge – Vengeance belongs to God alone

If your enemy is hungry – feed them! If they are thirsty give them something to drink!

Do not be overcome with evil – but overcome evil with good (Be salt & light)

## *The Ways of the Sinful Nature*

Self-centeredness, pride, and low self-awareness

Get even whenever you can. Slander others who have hurt you

Live the life unexamined – a life by default

It is up to others to get along with me

Seek to hurt those who have hurt you

Do all you can to destroy your enemies. Only help those you get along with that can help you

Don't speak up for the Gospel. Go along with what society dictates and avoid conflict with the world.



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