

## Part II – The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

<sup>4</sup> Such confidence we have through Christ before God. <sup>5</sup> Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. <sup>6</sup> He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. 2 Corinthians 3:4-6

### Lesson #6 – The Gifts of Care-giving



Those who have suffered, struggled, or felt completely alone know the power of a person who shows love in the name and spirit of Jesus. Genuine care, expressed at the right moment can have a permanent impact upon our lives. God has graciously poured out a variety of gifts to show His tender love and compassion for humanity. We consider these powerful expressions of God's loving comfort in this chapter.

Hospitality  
Mercy  
Exhortation  
Service

*Bienvenido*

### The Gift of Hospitality

<sup>1</sup> Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. <sup>2</sup> Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.. Hebrews 13:1-2



### Evidence that you may have the gift of hospitality

#### Ask yourself...

- Do new people seem to seek you out and enjoy your company?
- Do you enjoy meeting and getting to know new people?
- Do you enjoy giving without expecting anything in return?
- Does it bother you when you notice a newcomer sitting alone before or after a service with no one speaking to them?
- Do you enjoy making others feel at home in a new situation?
- Do you feel energized when asked to plan a social event?
- Do you experience a sense of satisfaction after opening your home to visitors?

***Perhaps you have the gift of hospitality!***

***Definition:*** *A special anointing to make others feel “at home,” welcome, cared for and part of the group.*

***Origen:*** *“given to love strangers”*

***Purpose:*** *To foster a welcoming atmosphere that attracts others and facilitates the establishing of positive relationships among God’s people.*

**Texts and Examples: *God is Hospitable!***

***God himself receives strangers, people with some sort of “defect,” and those who are otherwise marginalized or rejected in society.***

*Let no foreigner who is bound to the LORD say,  
“The LORD will surely exclude me from his people.”  
And let no eunuch complain, “I am only a dry tree.”*

<sup>4</sup> *For this is what the LORD says:*

*“To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,  
who choose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant—  
<sup>5</sup> to them I will give within my temple and its walls a memorial and a name  
better than sons and daughters; ...<sup>7</sup> these I will bring to my holy mountain  
and give them joy in my house of prayer.....for my house will be called  
a house of prayer for all nations.” Isaiah 56:5-7*

***Jesus’ scandalous hospitality; receiving everyone equally***

Biblical hospitality welcomes to the point of scandal. Jesus suffered intense criticism for the company he kept!

<sup>1</sup> *Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. <sup>2</sup> But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” Luke 15:1-2*

***Lydia prevailed upon the Apostle Paul to stay at her home***

<sup>14</sup> *One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message. <sup>15</sup> When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. “If you consider me a believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my house.” And she persuaded us. Acts 16:14-15*

## ***Potential Pitfalls for those with the gift of hospitality***



***Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful***

- To set appropriate boundaries
- To say “no” when a potential opportunity for hospitality could be harmful or even dangerous to the members of your household.
- Not to get burned out and feel that you are the only one who serves in this way
- Not to criticize those who are not as hospitable as you are for being “cold” or “unloving”
- Not to spend yourself serving others to the extreme that you neglect your own family and close friends.
- Not to confuse Christian hospitality with simply being friendly, social, or culturally correct.

### ***Review Questions:***

List some of the distinguishing marks of those with the gift of hospitality?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Define hospitality. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the purpose of hospitality? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List three ministries or roles in the church where someone could put this gift into practice.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

List some potential pitfalls for a person with the gift of hospitality.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention two people you know who you suspect have this gift.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_



## The Gift of Mercy

*... if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.* Romans 12:8

<sup>15</sup> Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. <sup>16</sup> If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? James 2:15-16

### *Evidence that you may have the gift of mercy*

#### *Ask yourself...*

- When you hear someone is sick, do you feel an impulse to visit them?
- Is it hard for you to pass a homeless person in the street without stopping and helping them in some way?
- When you hear news of some sort of tragedy or suffering, are you moved to compassion?
- Do you find yourself attending funerals often, offering comfort to the bereaved?
- Does it come naturally to you to go the extra mile to help a needy person?
- Do you experience a special sense of satisfaction when you can cook for a lonely person?

**Definition:** *A special empathy and sincere compassion for the suffering and pain of others, which results in concrete works of support and charity.*

**Purpose:** *To bring relief to wounded people such that they are restored to health and productivity, giving testimony to others about God’s love and power.*

***Examples of Christian mercy:***

- Christian hospitals
- Care for the elderly or handicapped
- Ministry to people with special needs
- Comfort for the bereaved
- Shelters and service to the homeless
- Visitation to hospitals and jails
- Mother Theresa
- The Salvation Army

***Texts: Read Luke 10:30-37 - The Good Samaritan***

***Mercy goes the extra mile to help another, refusing to make excuses and “be safe”***

– List some excuses we might use to avoid helping a victim in a situation such as the one described in this parable.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

***Read Matthew 25:35-45 - Acts of Mercy touch Jesus in a profound, even mystical, way***

*The Sheep and the Goats:* List the works of mercy mentioned in this parable.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_



## ***Potential pitfalls that come with the gift of mercy***

***Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful...***

- Not to be a “martyr!”
- To set appropriate boundaries. You cannot help everyone in every way!
- Not to “play God!” Jesus is the savior, not you!
- Not to neglect your own family or your own health.
- To live in joy. Do not focus only on the traumatic and sad side of human existence.
- To use discernment and sober judgment. People may seek to take advantage of your generosity.
- To be firm when necessary, even if others become angry with you.
- To use “tough love” in order to avoid forming unhealthy dependencies.
- To take authority to minister rather than involving your pastor in each situation.

## ***Questions***

Define the gift of mercy: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

What is the purpose of the gift of mercy \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

If you have this gift, why would it be important for you to participate in a small group?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

List some specific ways to use this gift in the ministry of the church.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention some people whom you believe have this gift.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

List some potential pitfalls that come along with the gift of mercy.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

How to say “no?” Share some advice for a sensitive-hearted person, with the gift of mercy, about how to say “no” to a need that is presented to him or her.

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## Gift of Exhortation

*<sup>14</sup> And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 1 Thessalonians 5:14*



### ***Evidence that you may have the gift of exhortation***

#### ***Ask yourself...***

- Have others thanked you for your words of encouragement or challenge?
- Does motivating and encouraging others come naturally to you?
- Do you notice when someone becomes slack in their Christian walk and needs a good “pep talk” (or kick in the pants!)?
- Are you secure in yourself and have a healthy self-image?
- Are you willing to confront when necessary?
- Do you have good interpersonal skills?

**Definition:** *A special anointing to encourage, challenge, or warn God's people when discouraged or flagging in some way.*

**Purpose:** *To promote perseverance, integrity and morale among God's people through well chosen and anointed words.*

**Texts:** *Exhortation is needed when...*

**1. When a Christian begins to drift spiritually and become lukewarm.**

<sup>12</sup> See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. <sup>13</sup> But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. Hebrews 3:12-13

**2. When a brother or sister begins missing services**

<sup>24</sup> And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25

Has there ever been a time when you were drifting from God and someone challenged you to renew your faith? What happened?

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**3. A new believer, who needs encouragement in their decision to follow Christ and motivation to make a full commitment**

<sup>11</sup> For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, <sup>12</sup> encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

**4. When a Christian brother or sister becomes weary and discouraged**

<sup>4</sup> The Sovereign LORD has given me a well-instructed tongue,  
to know the word that sustains the weary.  
He wakens me morning by morning,  
wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. Isaiah 50:4



**5. When the brothers and sisters grieve the loss of a dear friend or family member.**

<sup>10</sup> He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.

<sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Can you think of a time when you were tired or discouraged and someone encouraged you?  
Who? What difference did it make for you?

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***Potential pitfalls for the gift of exhortation***



***Watch out! If you have this gift, be careful...***

- To be sincere and sober. Resist exaggerating when you give a word of encouragement.
- Use tact and balance when giving a word of warning or challenge.
- Set appropriate limits. Resist the temptation to try to control the lives and decisions of others.

***Questions:***

Define the gift of exhortation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

What is the purpose of the gift of exhortation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

List some of the distinguishing characteristics of a person with this gift.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention some situations in which exhortation is needed.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

## The Gift of Service

*<sup>10</sup> Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Galatians 6:10*



### *Evidence that you may have the gift of service*

#### *Ask yourself...*

- Do you naturally anticipate the needs of the people around you?
- Do you have a knack for finding out about needs before anyone else knows?
- Do you simply enjoy yourself when serving others?
- Do you jump in to help out when there is a need, even if it involves personal sacrifice?

**Definition:** *A special anointing to identify and fill the practical needs of others.*

**Purpose:** *To bring a general sense of love, belonging, care and brotherly affection to the community of faith and win unbelievers to Christ through practical demonstrations of God's love.*

**Note:** "Service" is different from the gift of "helps" (for our purposes)

- *The gift of helps* is the distinctive ability to work alongside others and support their efforts in ministry projects.
- *The gift of service* is more general in nature – the capacity to anticipate and meet the needs of others in Christian love.

## ***Texts and Examples***

### ***Jesus washed the feet of the disciples***

*<sup>14</sup> Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.*  
John 12:14-15

### ***All Christian leadership is "service"***

*<sup>43</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*  
Mark 10:43-45

*<sup>5</sup> For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.* 2 Corinthians 4:5

### ***A shining example of the gift of service: Onesiphorus***

*<sup>16</sup> May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. <sup>17</sup> On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. <sup>18</sup> May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.* 2 Timothy 1:16-18

### ***Potential pitfalls for the gift of service***

***Watch out! If you have the gift of service, be careful...***

- To serve cheerfully and not reluctantly
- Not to serve to win the affection of others
- Not to grow resentful if your work goes unrecognized
- Not to be a "Martha" who becomes so busy serving that you neglect to rest, pray and spend leisurely time in God's presence.
- To say "no" when necessary
- Not to serve others so much that you neglect your own family
- To remember that when you serve others, you serve Jesus himself!



### ***Questions:***

Define the gift of service: \_\_\_\_\_

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Explain how the gift of service is different from the gift of helps. \_\_\_\_\_

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List some indications that one may have the gift of service.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think Jesus chose to use foot washing to demonstrate an ethic of service?

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List some warnings for a person who has this gift.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention some specific ways that someone could use this gift in the life of our church.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Mention two or three people whom you suspect have this gift.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_