

Spiritual Gifts 8 Giving and Mercy - Benevolent Gifts a study for the Gulf Coast Baptist Church Bible Institute for the Winter session 2020-21 by Steve Thomas

Giving - Romans 12:8

Introduction

R. G. LeTourneau was a Christian businessman who, according to “The Living Mercy Voice Foundation”, worked his way to giving 90 percent of his income to Christian endeavors. LeTourneau reportedly had over 300 inventions. Among his accomplishments: he established a “christian” school of engineering, LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas. LeTourneau’s view of giving 90 percent of his income is summed up in his quote:

“I shovel out the money, and God shovels it back – but God has a bigger shovel.”

LeTourneau’s activities reflect the believer with the gift of giving. A believer will know he has the gift when he is able to share liberally with other believers from his own resources absent any reciprocation. He does not give to get, but gives, and gives, and gives.

There are different words used when we see the English “give” or “giving”

- *Dorea* is **a no strings attached gift from God**. Rom. 3:24; 2 Pet. 1:3-4
- *Apodidomi* is **a payment for a debt owed**. Matt. 18:25-34; 20:8
- *Paradidomi* is **to give control of authority over to someone**. 1 Tim. 1:20; John 18:2.

The word *metadidomi* is used for the gift of giving. *Metadidomi* is a compound word made up of:

- Meta, a Greek preposition used to communicate association with.
- Didomi

Metadidomi is used in Scripture of - **sharing part of the resources one has with those lacking**.

- It was a sign of those believing the message of the Kingdom of God during Christ’s earthly ministry. Lk. 3:11
- It is used in a spiritual sense of giving of a spiritual gift by the apostle Paul. Rom. 1:11; 1st Thess. 2:8

All believers have a normal ability to give from their own labour, but the one with the gift is driven to give like no other. Eph. 4:28; Gal. 6:10

- The basis of working is to perform “the thing that is good” (ton agathon, the good). cf. Rom. 16:19 (is the opposite of kakos evil); Lk. 6:45 (performing is characteristic of one who is good); Rom. 2:10 (reward planned for those who do); Philemon 1:14 (not performed out of necessity)
- “The good” can be worked out “with hands”. cf. Heb. 9:11,24 (used of hands making the temple)

In Acts 20:35 the apostle Paul displayed an example of the mindset the Ephesians should have concerning giving. Vs.35 “Labouring” is (pres. act. part.) of kopos, **those who work to the point of exhaustion for the benefit of the saints**. cf. 1st Thess. 5:12 (of those ministering among the Thessalonians). The believer with the gift of giving labors to provide the means for giving to believers who have a need. Acts. 4:34-35; 6-3; Phil. 2:25; 4:15-19. The one who has the gift of giving is actually laboring so he can give his material possessions away to the one who has the need. That is the motivation for the labor. Most believers will work to provide for their families and will give of what is left over to others, generously. But the one with the gift of giving is thinking of giving his resources away as he works to earn it. This is next level generosity. It is powered and motivated by the supernatural.

Spiritual Gifts 8 - Giving and Mercy - Benevolent Gifts

With Simplicity

Romans tells the believer with the gift of giving to give with simplicity. "Simplicity" in this context translates "*haplotes*", which is used in Scripture of *a singleness of mind that freely acts from how one is led by the Spirit; and is dearth of hypocrisy and attention getting*. K.D.J. 2 Co. 11:3 (this kind of simplicity is based upon "the Christ"); Eph. 6:5 (it uses the mind, the will and the emotions); 2 Co. 8:2 (afflictions contributes to more effective use of).

The effects of giving on the Body

- Obstacles to growth are removed. 1 Thess. 2:8-9
- The grace of God is exemplified. 2 Co. 8:1-2
- The believer's physical needs are met. 1 John 3:16-17

* Giving (μεταδίδωμι) Romans 12:8 A special ability to distribute one's own goods or money freely without grudging or expecting personal benefit in return, seeking the Glory of God.

- Benevolence committee
- Finance Committee
- Building and Grounds
- Missions
- Financial Secretary

Mercy - Romans 12:8

Introduction

Mercy is defined as the withholding of deserved punishment. Someone has sinned and there is no doubt of the person's guilt. However, the one responsible for dispensing justice has decided to withhold the consequence, showing mercy instead. Mercy is not shown because of some merit or value in the sinner, but because of the pity and compassion of the one showing mercy.

Mercy is displayed from the Godhead towards those suffering spiritually

- Because of His mercy God chose out some from among fallen mankind for His purpose. Rom. 9:14-18; (1Tim.1:13-16)
- Because of His mercy God made those whom He chose alive together with Christ. Eph. 2:1-6; 1 Peter 1:3
- Because of His mercy God makes known to grace believers the riches from His glory. Rom. 9:22-23; Eph.3:7-8
- Mercy is bestowed upon those who enter into Christ's rest from their battle with sin. Heb.4:11-16

Mercy is displayed from the Godhead towards those suffering physically

- Those suffering from blindness during Christ's earthly ministry. Matt. 9:27-31; 20:29-34
- Those suffering demon-possession during Christ's earthly ministry. Matt. 15:21-28; 17:15-16

...with cheerfulness

Those with the gift of showing mercy have a persistent attitude of having pity on those suffering as a result of sin. Rom. 12:8a They are most effective with the gift when it is accompanied by graciousness. Rom. 12:8b The word for cheerful in this passage matches the attitude by which the Giver gives **2 Co. 9:7**- Not grudgingly, but with a hilarity, a cheerfulness. It does not drain this individual to pour into

Spiritual Gifts 8 - Giving and Mercy - Benevolent Gifts

another person, they are able to meet the needs of the person who is “serving his sentence” for some crime committed. They are seeking to snatch them from these consequences out of pity.

...have compassion

Those with the gift of showing mercy are consumed by a desire to snatch believers suffering as a result of sin out of their situation. **Jude 23**. The fire here is deserved. But the individual with a gift of mercy will seek to derail the individual from his punishment. This is the compassion that drives him. The word for snatch is the same word used in the Rapture (**1 Thess. 4:17**). We will be snatched away from this earth before it feels the wrath of God.

... with fear

Those with the gift of showing mercy have an above normal ability to recognize the fear needed in dealing with those suffering as a result of sin. Jude 23 (1 John 4:18 vs. 1 Tim. 5:20). While perfect love casts out fear, the believer dealing with the individual overwhelmed by his consequences of his sinfulness, has a healthy fear of becoming caught up in that very sin. Those with the gift of showing mercy have the proper hatred towards the effects of the sin nature on believers.

Conclusion

While the believer is dealing with chastening that has resulted from his sin or from the sin of Adam, one with the gift of mercy will seek to snatch this person from his consequences. He will not be drained of energy while ministering to this person, but will possess a cheerfulness, all the while avoiding the temptation and the sin himself with a healthy fear of this sin.

* Mercy (ἐλεέω) Romans 12:8 A special ability to have pity on believers who are suffering the results of sin and to show that pity in giving them a measure of relief.

- Sick and shut in Visitation
- Benevolence Committee
- Counselor for the afflicted