

MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS - PART 2

GIVING, LEADERSHIP, & MERCY

Motivational Gifts: | Romans 12:6-8

6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

GIFT DESCRIPTIONS

Giving

The gift of giving is the divine strength or ability to produce wealth and to give by tithes and offerings for the purpose of advancing the Kingdom of God on earth.

Leadership

The gift of leadership is the divine strength or ability to influence people at their level while directing and focusing them on the big picture, vision, or idea.

Mercy

The gift of mercy is the divine strength or ability to feel empathy and to care for those who are hurting in any way.

NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLES OF EACH GIFT IN ACTION

Read the following stories:

- **Gift of Giving:** Acts 4:32-37
- **Gift of Leadership:** Acts 15:1-21
- **Gift of Mercy:** Acts 16:25-34

LET'S OBSERVE THE TEXT...

Gift of Giving - Observe Acts 4:32-37

- Unity came before generosity. They were in one heart and one soul. Giving flowed out from a shared identity, not from pressure to meet at need. They saw the church as a family, not an institution.
- The believers held their belongings loosely, not with a vice grip. Did they own possessions? Yes. But they did not cling to them. What belonged to them was just viewed as resources, tools for the Kingdom and not for personal security.
- People were given to based off of their needs, not their status. And the givers gave voluntarily because they were Spirit-led.
- Barnabas wasn't named because of his status or position, but because his giving encouraged believers and strengthened the community materialistically and spiritually.
 - His generosity multiplied generosity amongst the believers. Giving was part of a larger move of God.



CONCORDANCE



Giving (metadidómi)

Strong's G3330

Found in Romans 12:8



Leading (proistémi)

Strong's G4291b

Found in Romans 12:8



Mercy (eleeó)

Strong's G1653

Found in Romans 12:8

Gift of Leadership - Observe Acts 15:1-21

- The issue was serious. Salvation itself was being questioned. Leaders did not ignore it or dismiss it as noise, but instead addressed it head on because truth, salvation, and unity was at stake.
- Paul and Barnabas didn't act independently. They went to Jerusalem to meet with the Apostles and elders. It was a shared accountability and discernment amongst qualified godly counsel.
- Discussion was allowed because listening comes before deciding. Different voices with different perspectives were heard. The gift of leadership requires patience, not panic, to give room to reflection.
- Authority was exercised with clarity and restraint. When James spoke, it was with direction, not domination. He explained the situation, referenced Scripture, and brought a solution.
 - His decision preserved unity without compromising truth.

Gift of Mercy - Observe Acts 16:25-34

- Paul and Silas' posture of worship was toward God, not their pain. The gift of mercy flows from a heart of worship not comfort.
- Mercy did not exploit the moment. They remained steady even during the earthquake.
- Mercy intervened to preserve life. Mercy saw a human life, not an enemy.
- Instead of running, mercy activated chose engagement instead of self-preservation. That choice effected the outcome of the story.
 - Mercy disarms fear and opens hearts. The jailer went from terror to humility. Activating the gift of mercy created a safe space for repentance and faith. After mercy was given, truth was spoken, and the jailer was saved. Dignity was restored on both sides, and mercy multiplied joy and salvation.



ONLINE RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

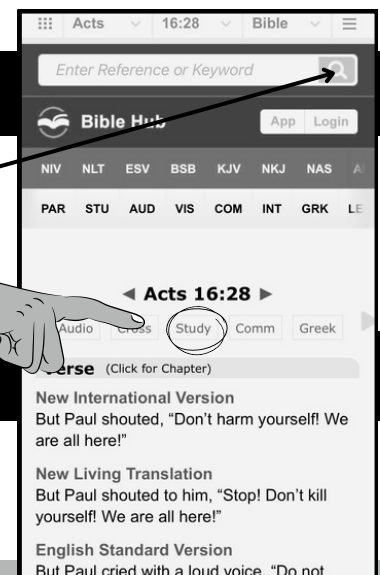
Observe Acts 16:28

- Go to BibleHub.com and do a search for **Acts 16:28** in the "Enter Reference or Keyword" box and then click on the magnifying glass.
- Once it loads, click on the button titled "Study"
 - Read the **Study Bible** section.



LET'S INTERPRET...

- What do you believe all of these verses mean?
- What is God speaking to you personally through this study?
- Read a trusted commentary and compare to your interpretation.





LET'S READ THE AFTER-SUMMARY TOGETHER

This study reminded us that spiritual gifts are not abstract ideas or personality traits. They show up in real life, under real pressure, with real people involved. Romans 12 makes it clear that these gifts come from grace, not effort, and they are meant to be used. Giving, leadership, and mercy are not about standing out. They are about stepping in when God invites us to move.

When we looked at the gift of giving in Acts 4, the biggest takeaway was that generosity started with unity. These believers were not being guilted into giving. They genuinely saw each other as family. What they owned did not own them. Resources were held loosely and shared freely, based on need not status. Barnabas stood out not because he was wealthy or important, but because his generosity encouraged others and helped create a culture where giving multiplied naturally.

The gift of leadership in Acts 15 showed us that real leadership does not panic or avoid hard conversations. Salvation itself was being questioned, and the leaders faced it head on. Paul and Barnabas did not make solo decisions. They sought counsel. They listened. When James finally spoke, he did not dominate the room. He pointed back to Scripture and offered a clear path forward that protected truth while preserving unity. Leadership here looked calm, patient, and anchored in God's Word.

The story of mercy in Acts 16 may have hit the hardest. Paul and Silas were beaten and imprisoned, yet they chose worship instead of bitterness. When the earthquake came, mercy kept them from running. Paul saw a desperate man about to end his life and noticed an opportunity which caused him to respond immediately. Mercy noticed urgency, valued life, and chose engagement over self protection. That moment opened the door for salvation, healing, and joy for an entire household.

What ties all of this together is that these gifts were activated in moments that could have gone very differently. Giving could have turned into hoarding. Leadership could have turned into division. Mercy could have been ignored in favor of escape. Instead, the Spirit empowered ordinary people to respond with obedience. These gifts still work the same way today. They show up when we choose faithfulness in the moment right in front of us.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

GIFT OF GIVING - Acts 4:32-37

Application Question:

Where in your life could you hold your resources more loosely, like the believers in Acts 4, so someone else's real need can be met this week.

Deeper Question:

Do you see what you own as personal security or as something God has entrusted to you for the good of His people, and what would actually change if you lived that out consistently.

GIFT OF LEADERSHIP - Acts 15:1-21

Application Question:

When conflict or confusion shows up, do you respond more like the apostles by listening, seeking counsel, and going back to Scripture, or do you react quickly to protect your own position.

Deeper Question:

Are you willing to lead in a way that preserves unity without compromising truth, even if it means slowing down, sharing authority, and trusting God's process instead of controlling the outcome.

GIFT OF MERCY - Acts 16:25-34

Application Question:

Who around you might be on the edge like the jailer was, and how could a timely word or act of compassion help preserve life and point them toward hope.

Deeper Question:

When you finally have the chance to walk away from pain or injustice, do you choose self preservation or do you stay present long enough for mercy to open a door for transformation.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, we thank You for the grace You have given each of us and for the gifts You place within Your people. Help us to give generously like the early church, not from pressure but from love and trust in You. Teach us to lead with humility and wisdom, seeking truth, listening well, and protecting unity just as the apostles did. Shape our hearts to show mercy with courage, choosing compassion over comfort and life over self preservation. Holy Spirit, empower us to live these gifts out in everyday moments so that others may see Jesus through our actions. We offer ourselves to You again, ready to be used for Your glory. In Jesus name we pray, amen.



WHAT'S AHEAD...

Next Session

Motivational Gifts - Part 3

Homework

Re-read Romans 12