

## **The Gift of the Mercy Shower Romans 12:8**

### **I. What is the gift of the mercy shower?**

- A. In Romans 12:8, the words “*sheweth mercy*” means “to be compassionate in word or deed.”
- B. The mercy shower is a comforter and enters into the grief or happiness of others.
- C. The mercy shower is able to show empathy. This goes beyond sympathy. Sympathy feels **for** others. Empathy feels **with** others. The empathizer emotionally goes through what the victim goes through.
- D. You can find mercy showers at hospitals, nursing homes, crisis centers, funeral homes, prisons, rescue missions, on the telephone, or Facebook with someone who is hurting, etc.

### **II. Why is there a need for the gift of showing mercy?**

- A. The mercy shower finds it easy to fulfill the command of Romans 12:15.
- B. The mercy shower ministers to the sick, the terminally ill, the mentally ill, the prisoners, the blind, the deaf, the aged, the homeless, etc.
- C. The mercy shower is willing to work with people and minister to people who have needs that most people feel very uncomfortable being around or feel inadequate working with them.

### **III. What are the characteristics of the mercy shower?**

- A. The phrase “*the disciple whom Jesus loved*” is used several times when referring to the apostle John (who wrote John; 1, 2, and 3 John; and Revelation). This phrase is unique to John. John’s actions towards Jesus and other friends and loved ones are consistent with someone who has the gift of showing mercy. Let’s look at the apostle John and draw some characteristics of the mercy shower. Let’s go to the book of John.

- B. First, the mercy shower is easy to love. John 13:23
1. John refers to himself as *“the disciple whom Jesus loved.”* Although Jesus loved all the twelve and loves everybody, there was a special relationship between Him and John.
  2. Everyone loves mercy showers because they are usually soft-spoken, with a low-key and inoffensive personality. They are usually peaceable and agreeable. They usually are not the type to overpower others with their personality.
  3. The mercy shower is good-natured and a good listener, and therefore people find it easy to like him.
- C. Second, the mercy shower is attracted to (and attracts) people in distress. John 19:25-27
1. When Jesus is being crucified, John is the only apostle that is there with Him, and then gladly takes Mary (the mother of Jesus) into his home and takes care of her.
  2. The mercy shower is always helping people who are down and out, taking as much time as is needed (never looking at his watch). He has a hard time saying “no.” He has such a self-sacrificing attitude that he can easily be used by others. Others may view him as a “softy.”
- D. Third, the mercy shower is deeply loyal.
1. John followed Jesus all the way to the cross (John 19:26). He stayed at the cross during that difficult time, regardless of consequences.
  2. John stuck with Peter, even when Peter went back to fishing. John 21:1-7
  3. People with this gift are deeply loyal. In fact, they are the type that will let people keep running over them and using them because they don’t want to give up on them.

- E. Fourth, the mercy shower wants to be there first when tragedy strikes.  
John 20:1-4
1. The mercy shower is the one people call first when they hurt because something bad has happened, or when they feel great because something good has happened.
  2. When there is a death, the mercy shower is the first to be at the house, holding someone's hand, fixing a meal, offering his shoulder to cry on, or just sitting there with the bereaved.
- F. Fifth, the mercy shower is usually not a leader, but a great follower.  
John 21:19-20
1. The mercy shower isn't usually the leader, since it would hurt too much if he had to scold someone or have to push them to get the job done.
  2. But do not think that the mercy shower is weak or a compromiser. He usually has strong beliefs and principles. He just doesn't like to hurt people's feelings, so he doesn't **express** them very often. But they are there!
  3. John doesn't do any mighty or flamboyant things, but he is the first to follow Jesus. This is like the mercy shower. He isn't going to get up in church and get a lot of attention. Most of the time you won't even know what they do behind the scenes, but they are okay with that. They just want to be a blessing to others.
- G. Sixth, the mercy shower has a deep faith. John 20:8-9
1. Because they are constantly in the trenches working with people and their problems, they have seen first-hand what God can do.
  2. When everyone else has lost all hope and is ready to give up on someone or something, the mercy shower knows that God is able.

### **III. How does Satan attack those with the gift of showing mercy?**

- A. Causes them to tolerate sin in a person's life
- B. Causes them to become possessive of those they help
- C. Causes pride because of their ability to relate to others
- D. Causes depression because the mercy shower is trying to carry everyone's burdens. People with this gift can get depressed easily.
- E. Causes them to resent others who are not as understanding as they are
- F. Causes a lack of firmness because of a strong feeling for others who hurt due to disobedience and sin
- G. Causes them to make decisions based on emotions rather than God's Word

### **IV. Scriptures that the mercy shower should memorize:**

- A. Romans 12:15
- B. 1 Peter 5:7
- C. Psalm 55:22
- D. 1 Thessalonians 5:14
- E. 1 Timothy 5:20