GOD GAVE GIFTS
(Part 5) "The Serving Gifts"
(Leadership, Helps, Mercy)

I. THE GIFT OF LEADERSHIP (Rom. 12:8) —ADMINISTRATION (1 Cor. 12:28)

A. ESTABLISHING A WORKING DEFINITION

1. In Romans 12:8 the gift of "leadership" is mentioned. The word for leadership means "to preside over, to stand before, to be over, to manage." It denotes the capacity to *manage people* to achieve results. In 1 Corinthians 12:28 the gift is referred to as "administration." It means to "pilot or steer." It denotes more the ability to *organize things* to achieve results.
2. Usage and Context - The word for "leadership" is found eight times in the NT, all in Paul's writings. The word for "administration" is found only three times in the NT.
3. "Leadership/Administration" is *the God-given ability to manage people and/or organize things toward a defined direction to achieve results.* Often there is a blend of both.

B. EXPLORING SOME GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

1. Sees "big picture", visionary, goals.
2. Desire orderliness, efficiency, quality.
3. Tends to be assertive and take the lead.
4. Usually confident decision-makers.
5. Good people-motivator.
6. Breaks task down, resourceful, delegator.
7. Endures negativism, opposition.
8. Initiator, self-starter.
9. Expects loyalty.
10. Loves it when a plan comes together.

Examples?

II. THE GIFT OF SERVICE (Rom. 12:7) HELPS (1 Cor. 12:28)

A. ESTABLISHING A WORKING DEFINITION

1. In Romans 12:7 the word for "serving" means "to do a service, to wait on tables." This gift tends to be more *task* oriented. In 1 Cor. 12:28 the word for "helps" denotes "the lending of a hand, holding up to support." This gift takes the load of others and places it on self. This tends to be more *people* oriented.
2. Usage and Context - The word for "serving" is a common NT word (over 100). The word for "helps" is found only four times in the NT. Both of these gifts enable everything to get done.
3. "Service/Helps" is *the God-given ability to easily see, faithfully support, and joyfully meet the practical needs of others.* May be the most common gift in the church.

B. EXPLORING SOME GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

1. Moved to meet needs of others, enjoys helping out.
2. Desire and stamina to please others.
3. Trustworthy and dependable.
4. Easily over-commits.
5. Better at short-term things.
6. Poor delegator.
7. Needs appreciation.
8. Often has gift of "hospitality".
9. Feels inadequate for visible leadership.

Examples?

III. THE GIFT OF SHOWING MERCY (Rom. 12:8)

A. EXTABLISHING A WORKING DEFINITION

1. The word means "to have compassion on, to feel sympathy for, to be able to suffer with." It denotes love in action, especially to those who cannot help themselves.
2. Usage and Context - Though this gift is only stated once, the term is found over 60 times in NT. It always includes the capacity to hurt with others. The primary goal of this gift is to relieve suffering saints.
3. "Showing mercy" is *the God-given capacity to have compassion for and to suffer with those in distress with a cheerful spirit.*

B. EXPLORING SOME GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS.

1. Readily identifies those in distress.
2. Magnetizes hurting humanity.
3. Strong desire to relieve hurts.
4. Very tender and easily offended.
5. Avoids firmness and decisiveness.
6. Avoids people who are arrogant, insincere, critical, insensitive.
7. Needs acceptance and friendships.
8. Makes emotionally-based decisions.

Examples?

CONC: