

**BRIEF OVERVIEW OF REDEMPTIVE GIFTS (BEHAVIORAL CHARACTERISTICS) \***

**MERCY** (Principle of Fulfillment)

- Gets along with everybody easily. Rarely has enemies.
- Is admired and respected.
- Is a safe person for those who are wounded. Can make everyone feel safe sharing their hurts. Can be approached by complete strangers.
- Can take initiative toward wounded ones. Knows who is feeling rejected or wounded in the room.
- Most sensitive of all the gifts.
- Has a huge number of acquaintances and people who enjoy him/her, but only a few who are close friends. Shares transparently with intimate friends.
- Designed by God for intimacy of soul; transcends to the physical. Desires and needs hugs and touch.
- Tends to be slow to make transitions, not of the will but based on emotional processing. Does not like rapid change without time to process.
- Hears from God but has difficulty explaining the "why". Operates on subjective and intuitive feelings.
- Makes decisions based on his/her heart.
- Designed to bring comfort; hates to confront. Wants to keep people from hurting, protected from pain.
- Does not like to choose sides between two people. Does not want to say one is right and one is wrong.
- Prone to appear indecisive because he/she does not desire to hurt anybody. Having to choose between two people's opinions can be paralyzing.
- Can become a people-pleaser and enabler. The immature mercy may do whatever is necessary to make people around him/her happy with them.
- Can be very dramatic and emotional; over-reactive.
- May attract abuse and exploitation because of his/her kindness, niceness, and willingness to allow injustice to happen.
- Has a deep strain of anger, which appears rarely and usually in the context of loyalty to someone else. Tends to take up an offense for a third party.
- Does not typically hold on to offense; forgives easily except when friends or family are offended.
- Drawn into spiritual warfare by love for others, to end suffering being caused by the demonic abuse.
- Loves worship; desires God obtain pleasure from worship. Can easily enter into the presence of God.
- Is drawn to gift of prophet. Opposites attract: decisiveness of prophet balances the indecisiveness of mercy. Prophet needs the softening influence of mercy.
- Prone to stubbornness (though can sometimes be in the nicest way). May acknowledge that what he/she is doing is not God's will and yet not change. Can choose to be life-giving when he/she wants to, how he/she wants to, and where he/she wants to, but can stubbornly resist doing all the things God has called him/her to do.
- Often has not resolved the fathering issues in his/her life.
- May see all pain as bad. May flee pain and keep others from the discipline of God when He intends to build maturity and wholeness through discipline.

## Major Weaknesses

- IMPURITY.** Desire for intimacy and physical touch may lead to impurity.
- ENABLING.** Wants to protect others from pain.
- COMPROMISE.** Willing to live with mixture of holy and unholy without calling people to do what is right.
- NON-CONFRONTATIONAL.** May tolerate abuse and exploitation because he/she is willing to allow injustice to continue.

## Biblical Examples of Mercy - Adam, David, Joshua, Apostle John, Ruth

### NOTES