**VICTORIOUS LIFE CHURCH BIBLE STUDY SERIES: DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS- UNLEASHING YOUR POTENTIAL IN THE SPIRIT.**

**GRACE GIFTS: Part Three**

In this session we will continue to focus on the individual Grace gifts. We will examine the strengths and weaknesses of three Grace Gifts

**GIVING RULING SHOWING MERCY**

**Giving**: The ability and the desire to use such material means to bless those in need and to bless the ministry of Christ.

**Giving: Characteristics**

1. Usually is sensitive to the material needs of others

2. Usually gives freely and liberally, without compulsion

3. Tends to be a good financial manager

4. Usually likes to give anonymously

**Giving: Strengths**

1. Is generous, gives to bless

2. Is sturdily believing that God is the source and he/she is the channel

3. Is loving and gives of himself/herself as well as money

4. Keeps material things in proper perspective with the spiritual and the external

5. Is careful to give wisely and discreetly

**Giving: Weaknesses**

1. Can be manipulative, giving to receive

2. Can become materialistic and selfish

3. Can be distant, giving only material gifts

4. Can easily be taken advantage of

5. Can have more temporal values than eternal values

New Testament Examples:

Macedonians

**2 Corinthians 11:9**

**And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself.**

Church at Philippi

**Philippians 4:14-17**

**14 Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. 17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God. 19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**

Barnabas

**Acts 4:36-37**

**36 Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”), 37 sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.**

**Ruling: The ability and the desire to coordinate the activities of others in order to achieve God-honoring goals in ministry.**

**Ruling: Characteristics**

1. Usually has an adeptness for organizing things

2. Tends to like long-range planning and goals

3. Tends to be a visionary, with a broad perspective

4. Usually enjoys working with people, delegating and supervising

5. Usually is self controlled.

**Ruling: Strengths**

1. Is good at prioritizing tasks in order to accomplishment a goal.

2. Inspires the confidence of others

3. Perseveres in the face of criticism

4. Is loyal to those working with him/her. Uses resources wisely

**Ruling: Weaknesses**

1. Can be insecure and speculative

2. Can be opportunistic and unscrupulous

3. Can use people

4. Can waste resources in order to accomplish

5. Can be egotistical, critical and jealous

Biblical Example:

Nehemiah

**Nehemiah 2:6-9**

**6 And the king said unto me, (the queen also sitting by him,) For how long shall thy journey be? and when wilt thou return? So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.**

**7 Moreover I said unto the king, If it please the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river, that they may convey me over till I come into Judah;**

**8 And a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which appertained to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me. 9 Then I came to the governors beyond the river, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me.**

James (Brother of Jesus)

**Acts 15:13-19**

**13 And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me: 14 Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. 15 And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, 16 After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: 17 That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things. 18 Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world. 19 Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God:**

**Showing Mercy:** The ability and the desire to sense the distress of others and to bring consolation to them.

**Showing Mercy: Characteristics**

1. Tends to be easily moved to pity and tears

2. Normally wants to personally reach out to those who are hurting

3. Tends to always look for the good in people

4. Is typically joyful and optimistic

5. Usually has a great desire to express love to others

**Showing Mercy: Strengths**

1. Is sensitive to the inner pain of others

2. Is kind and spontaneously tenderhearted

3. Is patient of the weak

4. Is protective of the weak

5. Is peacemaker and reconciler

**Showing Mercy: Weaknesses**

**1. Can be oversensitive to their own pain or imagined insults**

2. Can be undisciplined and slothful

3. Can be overprotective and manipulative

4. Can be meddlesome and intrusive

5. Can be indecisive

New Testament Examples: Paul and John (the apostles)