

## CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GIFT OF MERCY (COMPASSION) ILLUSTRATED FROM THE LIFE OF JOHN

CHARACTERISTICS	ILLUSTRATIONS
1. An ability to sense genuine love. A greater vulnerability to deeper and more frequent hurts from the lack of love.	John 's teachings and personal relation- ships illustrate that his primary focus was one love. He uses the word "love" more than any other disciple (John; I, II; III John).
2. A need for deep friendships in which there is mutual commitment.	John established a very close relationship with Christ and with Peter. He often refers to himself as the disciple "whom Jesus loved" (John 13:23-19:26; 20:2; 21:7; 21:20).
3. A tendency to react harshly when intimate friends are rejected.	John and James asked Christ if they should call down fire from heaven and consume the Samaritans who rejected Christ (Luke 9:54).
4. A greater concern over mental joy or distress than physical concerns.	John wrote to give his readers "joy", "fellowship", "hope", "confidence", and to cast out "fear" and "torment" (I John 1:3-4; 3:2; 4:18; 5:13-14). Meeting physical needs proves love (I John 3:17).
5. A tendency to attract people who are having mental and emotional distress.	John's deep understanding, love, and acceptance made it easy to understand why <b>others would confide in him</b> as Christ did during the last supper (John 13:23-26).
6. A need to measure acceptance by physical closeness and quality time together.	John sought out the closest place to Christ: "Now there was leaping on Jesus bosom one of his disciples . . ." (John 13:23). His need for closeness may have prompted his request to sit next to Christ in glory.
7. A desire to remove the causes of hurts rather than to look for benefits from them.	John's message was to get Christians to stop hating and hurting each other (I John 3:11,15).
8. A tendency to avoid decisions and firmness unless they will eliminate greater hurts.	John was a <b>follower</b> until it came to denying Jesus; then he was <b>bold and decisive</b> (Acts 4:13; 19-20).
9. A tendency to be attracted to those with the spiritual gift of prophecy.	John spent <b>more time with Peter</b> than with any other disciple (Luke 22:8; Acts 3:1-11; 4:13-19; 8:14).