

Restoration Fellowship, Sunday, April 19th, 2026
Series: Spiritual Gifts: Gift of Mercy

Main Idea: *The spiritual gift of mercy reflects God's divine protection and movement toward his children.*

Key Verse: 1Peter 1:3 *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,"*

I. The Fruit of Mercy

- Mercy is a facet of love.
- Mercy is active, not just a feeling.
- Mercy enters into suffering and offers a covering.
- Mercy is not solely cognitive; it comes from the heart.

II. The Roots of Mercy

Several words in the Hebrew bible are used to convey the idea of mercy. For example, Psalm 51:1

*Have mercy (hānan) on me, O God,
According to your steadfast love (hesed);
According to your abundant mercy (rāham)
Blot out my transgressions.*

Hānan - *merciful grace, to show favor*

Hesed - *merciful love*

Rāham - *womb-like compassion*

Additional verses that use the word rāham... (There are many more!)

- Psalm 119:77 *"Let your mercy (rāham) come to me, that I may live, for your law is my delight."*
- Isaiah 54:7 *"For a brief moment I deserted you, but with great mercy (rāham) I will gather you."*
- Lamentations: 3:22 *"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies (rāham) never come to an end."*
- Is 46:3-4 *"You, who I have sustained from the womb (rāham), carried along since birth. I will be the same until your old age, and I will bear you up when you turn gray. I have made you, and I will carry you; I will bear and rescue you."*

- Exodus 33:19 *“I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name, The LORD. And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy (rāham) on whom I will show mercy (rāham).”*

Mercy has a context: *“Mercy flows in the rock of justice.”*

Ex 12:23 *For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you.*

The story of the Exodus is the story of an oppressed people crying out for God to bring his justice. Like Noah needed an ark, those who cry out for deliverance will have a covering too.

III. How do we receive God’s mercy?

We confess our sin and believe in the mercy of God, offered to us through the sacrifice of Christ, and we are born again!

- Romans 7:24-25 *“What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!”*
- 1Peter 1:3 *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! **According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again** to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”*

Life Group Questions:

1. Where have you experienced God’s mercy in your life?
2. Jesus says, *“blessed are the merciful”* (Matthew 5). What makes it difficult to show mercy?
3. Psalm 103 is all about God’s mercy. Verse 13-14 says: *“As a father shows rāham to his children, so the LORD shows rāham to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.”* How could recognizing your frame (ie: your own frailty and your neighbor’s frailty) help you become more merciful?
4. How does thinking of God’s mercy as a womb help you to see his mercy as divine protection?
5. Does the idea of being born again make more sense when you envision the mercy of God as a womb? A place of safety and delivery?