

Edgar (p.331) states:

Once again, if showing mercy refers to a gift we have no real description of it. The word translated "showing mercy" is ELEON. It means to show mercy or to have pity. The person exercising this gift is merciful toward others or, as Arndt and Gingrich say in *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, page 249, it means to do acts of mercy. All Christians are to show or exercise mercy, but this must be on an unusual scale, since it appears to be a supernatural gift of the Holy Spirit.

M. Ministering

Romans 12:6-7 -- "We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift . . . , is serving, let him serve"

1 Peter 4:11 -- "If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."

Edgar (pp. 329-330) writes:

The Greek word DIAKONIA occurs as the description of a spiritual gift only in Romans 12:7. There is no description or definition of this gift. The term DIAKONIA is a broad, general term, and is used in 1 Corinthians 12:5 to describe an entire category of spiritual gifts. First Corinthians 12:4-5 says: "And there are differences of gifts (CHARISMA) but the same Spirit, and there are differences of ministries (DIAKONIA) and the same Lord."

The word DIAKONIA means to minister, to serve, to aid, etc. The verb DIAKONEO has the same general connotations. It often had a religious aspect even before Christianity. Although it has the aspect of serving others. Paul described his ministry by this term on several occasions. The English words service or ministry probably express the meaning of DIAKONIA most accurately.

This term is differentiated from the idea of ruling, since the term for ruling is used explicitly in Romans 12:1. Therefore it is most probable that the gift of ministry refers to service rendered to others. We must not forget that Romans 12:6-8 describes gifts from the standpoint of function rather than supernatural ability. Therefore the gifts described in this passage may include supernatural abilities listed elsewhere.

Ryrie (p. 90) states:

Ministering (Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:12)

Ministering means serving. The gift of ministering is the gift of helping or serving in the broadest sense of the word. In the Romans passage it is called the gift of ministering; in I Corinthians, the gift of helps; in Ephesians we are told that other gifts are given for the purpose of helping believers to be able to serve. This is a very basic gift which all Christians can have and use for the Lord's glory.