Serving with Mercy

Scriptures: 2 Samuel 24:14 & Ephesians 2:4

Mercy is described as a divine attribute of God's nature. It is revealed in action God takes to relieve suffering and demonstrates His faithfulness and steadfast love. On a human level, mercy is best described as a person's consideration of the conditions and needs of his fellow man. It moves us to act on the behalf of the unfortunate. We are called to be compassionate and merciful to believers as well as nonbelievers. On a divine level, mercy is the foundation of forgiveness expressed in God's pardon of human sin.

Mercy can also be described in a broader category such as compassion, loving kindness, favor, and steadfast love.

1. **God is faithful to His covenant promises** in His relationship with His people despite their unworthiness and faithlessness. **Deuteronomy 30:1-6; Romans 9:15-16; Ephesians 2:4-9.**
2. **God is slow to anger.** When God revealed Himself to Moses, He emphasized the prominence of His mercy. "I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin, but I don not excuse the guilty." **Exodus 34:6-7**
3. **In God's mercy, He shows leniency.** He withholds punishment from sinners even though they deserve it. **(Nehemiah 9:31)** God's mercy also causes Him to give good gifts to those who are undeserving. **Luke 1:78**
4. **Because Of His loving kindness, He saved us. (Titus 3:4-7)** The fullness of God's love is demonstrated in Jesus Christ during his earthly ministry when He demonstrated compassion and mercy for the helpless and suffering. **Matthew 9:36; 14:14; 20:34.**
5. Mercy, motivated Christ to give Himself up as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. **(Ephesians 5:2)** so that through Him we might be forgiven of our sins. **Hebrews 2:17** and granted the gift of eternal life.
   1 Peter 1:3: 1 Timothy 1:14-16; Jude 1:21.

In Titus 3:4-7, the Apostle Paul gives us the best description of God's mercy as revealed in Jesus Christ. There is nothing we could do or say that could motivate God to save us. He offers us salvation completely because of His might grace which was displayed on the Cross. Romans 11:6. He cleanses us, imparts us with a new nature, and gives us eternal life because of His great love for us.

As believers, we must how the same mercy and compassion towards others as God demonstrates His mercy towards us. **Micah 6:8; Luke 6:36; James 2:12-13.**