

### 3. Hospitality: How do we do it?

First I think we must develop an interest in Mercy (Micah 6:8) and develop a feeling for the welfare of others. It may be a case of learning to walk in the other's moccasins, or something like that. But a sense of compassion, patterned after that of the Lord Jesus, is really necessary. We must then learn the joy of investing ourselves in others and allow the enriching of their lives to be spiritually rewarding to ours. An attitude of cheerfulness should mark this because we cheerfully receive the fullness of God's bounty for us. And with it...we dare not think of the return. All of that we leave in the hands of God.

What it means practically is that one opens one's heart, home, and hand to God and to the people with whom we come in contact. We do it to bless them and to acquaint them with the goodness of our Lord. And, incidentally, we treat them like that because that is how we would like to be treated... and that may smack a bit of the "golden rule"...a rather good guideline in this area.

#### C. Conclusion

So...learn to show the art of hospitality. Be particularly kind to strangers and those who look lost in a fellowship. Be wise but be caring. If you do not feel capable in yourself, join with someone else. But exercise this gift for the health of the body and the extension of the Lord's testimony.

### VIII. Conclusion to our series

The study is only partial...there are many more "lesser" gifts. But it is important to know that everyone who is born again is equipped of God to enjoy and serve the fellowship. As we exercise ourselves within it for God, we enrich our spiritual lives, promote the Gospel, and honor the Lord who bought us.