

## Elder Bobby Willis



### Compassion

Most anyone knows a dictionary meaning of "**compassion**". Webster says, "*A sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it or to see it alleviated.*" Not a bad usage of words to explain it in somewhat simple terms.

Notice what David said in Psalms 86:15 including all the others words used in connection with compassion - "**But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.**" They lend themselves to a fuller understanding for us, as compassion is not a state of feeling sorry for someone, but rather carries with it the "*bearing of one another's burdens*". This requires a deeper feeling of truly caring for your fellow brother and sister in Christ.

There are numerous occasions where the Lord was said to have compassion on His people as He moved about among them, from feeding the multitudes, from healing the sick, raising the dead, and His overall love for them. Peter has good admonition for us in I Peter 3:8, "**Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous.**"

Let us read closely the words of Jude as he instructs us to keep ourselves "**in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.**" (Jude vs. 21). Let us now notice verse 22 where he informs us that some (evidently not all) had compassion and because of it were making a difference. Those of you who think that your prayers, your concern, your calls, your notes, your caring for those in need and who are hurting doesn't really count or is of no benefit - You are wrong! Sorry if that is too strong. Jude said by the inspiration of the Spirit that "**some have compassion, making a difference**" (Jude vs. 22). Lord, not only increase our faith, but help us with a stronger compassion for God's children whatever their hurt or need may be. "**Think About It!**"