

# The Gifts of Healing

1 Corinthians 12:4-9 (NASB)

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit

## What is healing?

Let's look at the life and mission of Jesus for a working definition...

Luke 4:18 (NASB)

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,  
Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor.  
He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives,  
And recovery of sight to the blind,  
To set free those who are oppressed

Acts 10:38 (NASB)

You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Matthew 4:24 (NASB)

The news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them.

**“Healing” defined: a display of God's power to release someone from affliction.**

Matthew 8:28-34 (demons)

John 9:1-11 (sight)

John 5:5-9 (lame)

Matthew 9:1-8 (paralytics)

Imparted to the apostles...

John 20:21 (NASB)

So Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”

Healing often accompanies prayer and the laying on of hands.

Jesus...

Luke 4:40 (NASB)

While the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and laying His hands on each one of them, He was healing them.

Peter and John....

**Acts 3:1-10 (NASB)** [READ]

Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth *hour*, the hour of prayer. And a man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he *began* asking to receive alms. But Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, "Look at us!" And he *began* to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: **In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—walk!**" And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. With a leap he stood upright and *began* to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God; and they were taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to *beg* alms, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Paul...

**Acts 28:8 (NASB)**

And it happened that the father of Publius was lying in bed afflicted with recurrent fever and dysentery; and Paul went in to see him and **after he had prayed, he laid his hands on him and healed him.**

But sometimes without any formula whatsoever!

**Matthew 8:8-13** [READ]

**Acts 19:11-12 (HCSB)**

God was performing extraordinary miracles by Paul's hands, so that **even facecloths or work aprons that had touched his skin were brought to the sick, and the diseases left them, and the evil spirits came out of them.**

**Acts 5:12-16** [READ]

Example: Adorn and the Canadian girl. (reminder: it's a display of God's power)

Normal pattern in Scripture seems to be the imparting of...

Gifts of healing: gifts is plural referring to different gifts of healing at differing times, rather than the institution of the gift in one person.<sup>1</sup> No one has the gift permanently, yet any Christian can potentially receive a **display of God's power to release someone from affliction** (through prayer/laying hands)

**This is not just given to apostles: AP!**

- Stephen (Acts 6:8)
- Philip (Acts 8:5-7)
- Ananias (Acts 22:12-13).<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> D.A. Carson. *Showing the Spirit*. 39

<sup>2</sup> Greig and Springer. *The Kingdom and the Power*. 142

## Why do we need the gift of healing? AP!

### 1. to meet felt needs by God's power

Matthew 14:14 (ESV)

When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had **compassion** on them and healed their sick.

### 2. to bear witness to the gospel of the Kingdom

Luke 7:22 (ESV)

And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them.

1 Corinthians 2:4-5 (NASB)

My message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but **in demonstration of the Spirit and of power**, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

## Healing is a glimpse of God's kingdom.

Where does physical affliction come from?

- Satan (the author of sin)
- sins (the act of)
- Sin (the condition of)

Romans 8:22 (NASB)

For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. **sometimes you're just sick--no one's fault.**

healing = a reversal of the works of the devil, sin, or the curse.

God is broadcasting that he is in charge.

Because physical affliction is due to a fallen rebellious world, our deepest need is to be healed from the spiritual affliction of our sin.

1 Peter 2:24-25 (NASB)

He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

Jesus *will* restore everything.

Romans 8:2 (ESV)

that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

And in God's kingdom, healing will be horribly outdated.

**But now**, they are a wonderful taste of heaven on Earth; a whetting of the appetite.

So, we should expect to see healing happen.

*a display of God's power to release someone from affliction.*

## Elephants in the room

### 1. Is medicine bad to use if God heals?

No; if healing is God's will, why would it be wrong to use natural healing agents?

Paul told Timothy to take wine for his stomach.

God can use a variety of things to restore health; it is myopic to expect only one method.

## 2. Does God always heal? **AP!**

No...

Paul wasn't healed (Gal. 4:13-14). *bodily ailment*

Timothy wasn't healed (1 Tim 5:23). *stomach/frequent ailments*

Epaphroditus wasn't healed (Phil 2:25-30). *ill to the point of death*

Trophimus wasn't healed (2 Tim 4:20). *ill. left at Miletus.*

Daisy wasn't healed.

Some say it's lack of faith. Really? Daisy had more faith than most people I know.

Some say it's a lack of prayer. But her prayer website had 2 million hits.

Why not? We don't know.

But here's what we do know...

### 1. God tells us that we will suffer in this life

1. We need to balance our view of the Kingdom (healing) with a biblical view of suffering (fallenness)

1. "already, but not yet" aspect of the Kingdom

### 2. God makes us more complete through suffering

James 1:2-4 (NASB)

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

e.g., depression

Wimber: Lord, show us how to pray

### 3. God's timing is perfect

1. Healing is not always instantaneous (Adrenaline rush)

2. Find comfort in God's perfect timing...

1. Those in Christ will be healed, either now, or when Jesus comes.

## If you sense God empowering you for a pressing need

it will likely be accompanied by faith.

Be sensitive to the person

1. do they even want the prayer of healing? Is it going to bless them?

2. maybe they just want you to listen...?

3. is this Holy Spirit leading you in this? Is he leading you to directly approach someone or pray in the Spirit?

Be sensitive to the situation

1. don't put pressure on people to give a good report; it's not always instantaneous. (sometimes v7)

2. This can lead to false reports, and it will be shown that there was no healing.

1. We do not want to cause derision on the good gift of healing by pressuring people.

3. have enough faith not to emotionalize...

1. Holy Spirit may allow you to feel a measure of their burden (eliciting emotional response)

2. or, what may help that person best is for you to remain calm.

When praying...

Assume that God wants to heal that person.

We get his will by looking at the life of Jesus. So we don't have to pray with a bunch of caveats.

But we can and should pray for God to be glorified in the situation.

Take your time for a response or affect.

Shepherd them if no immediate.

## **If you are sick and want healing today...**

**James 5:14-16 (NASB)**

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Elders (oil) and prayer teams.

Each other (in seats).

Yourself.