

## Gifts of Healing and Miracles

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (NASB)

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Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 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, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

Today we are looking at the spiritual gifts of healing and miracles.

As we do this we will ask 3 questions:

- **WHAT** are gifts of healing and miracles?
- **WHY** gift of Healing & miracles? Are they necessary and good? (the purpose of it)
- **HOW** are gifts of healing & miracles to be practiced?

So,

**WHAT are the gifts of healing and gift of miracles?"**

We can mean many things when we use the word "healing" or "restoration" or "miracle". These forms of healing are all predictable and explainable...

**But Paul is talking about a healing that goes beyond the type of healing that you and I can explain.**

- This gift of healing is not something that you and I can explain or predict—except by faith...
- Paul is speaking of the SUPER NATURAL—not simply the natural...

**The gifts of healing and miracles are supernatural—they are given by God.**

...yet there is not much in scripture that describes either of these gifts.

Some spiritual gifts are described at length—speaking in tongues & prophecy...

- Entire chapters of the Bible speak of these gifts and even describe how/when they are to be done.

**It is not this way with healing or miracles:**

- **Very little is said about HOW and WHEN healing is to happen.**
- **Very little is said about HOW and WHEN to effect a miracle.**
  - It's as if God simply says, "This gift of healing is a real thing—go do it!"
  - There are no 10-steps to supernatural healing revealed in the Bible.

**So, we are left to examine the many testimonies of healing and miracles in scripture as our guide to understanding WHAT these gifts are, WHY they are good, and HOW people walked in these gifts.**

Healing and miracles are a CENTRAL COMPONENT of Jesus' life and ministry...

**Luke 4:14-21 (NASB)**

And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district. 15 And He *began* teaching in their synagogues and was praised by all.

16 And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. 17 And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written,

“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, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.”

And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

**Right from the start Jesus’ mission statement includes supernatural HEALING and MIRACLES.**

- The Apostles bear witness to the fulfillment of this mission statement:

#### **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.

#### **The Apostles SAW Jesus operate in supernatural POWER**

Jesus is LIVING OUT the reality that the Holy Spirit is IN HIM and WITH HIM.

- He is simply BEING who he came down from heaven to BE.

#### **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.

So when the Apostle Paul mentions the supernatural gift of healing we can understand it as:

“The gifts of healing are the display of God’s love and power to release someone of an affliction: whether physical, spiritual, emotional, psychological, but **ESPECIALLY** physical.

As we look at the life and ministry of Jesus, we see a picture of this gift of healing.

#### **Jesus Heals and Sets Free:**

- **Demoniacs—Matthew 8:28-34**
- **Blind —John 9:1-11**
- **Physically disabled—John 5:5-9**
- **Epileptics—Matthew 17:14-16**
- **Paralytics—Matthew 9:1-8**
- **Lepers—Luke 17:11-19**
- **Arriving too late to heal her, Jesus raises a girl from the dead—Mark 5:21-43**
- **Bleeding conditions—Matthew 8:20-22**

- **The adulteress—John 4**
- **The Unlikable Tax Collector—Luke 19**
- **Both wealthy and poor**
- **Both old and young**
- **Both Jews and foreigners**

They are released, healed and set free in a SUPERNATURAL way by a SUPERNATURAL God.

**All of this healing is God saying, I LOVE YOU AND I AM WITH YOU.**

- All this healing points to JESUS as the Messiah.
- All healing will point to JESUS as the one to whom the prophets pointed.
- All healing points to JESUS as the fulfillment of hundreds of years of prophecy.

**And here is Jesus—God in flesh—DOING what He promised He would do:**

- **lovingly healing and releasing broken, sick, afflicted people.**

This it is amazing that God would heal us—This is GOOD NEWS!

**But Jesus doesn't stop here...**

- Jesus didn't just come to show pity on humanity and heal us from stuff.

**Jesus brings TRUE healing which restores people to our intended place WITH GOD.**

- God's plan, in Christ, is to not just heal people, but to restore and empower us as well.
- God's biggest miracle is how He CHANGES us and RESTORES us to Himself.

**The Gospel accounts show us that Jesus imparted these gifts of healing and miracles to the apostles...**

**John 20:21 (NASB)**

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

**Matthew 10:1 (NASB)**

**Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.**

**Acts 2:43 (NASB)**

**Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.**

Jesus had COMMISSIONED these men to heal and perform miracles as He had done.

- **He imparts a measure of His authority to cast out demons, heal afflictions and diseases, perform miracles, and even raise people from the dead!**

So we see God give gifts of healing and miracles, but there are not many instructions relating to HOW to do these things...

- What does this gift look like when someone is using it?

Again, we turn to the stories and examples of healing we see throughout scripture as our example:

**Healing often accompanies prayer, laying on of hands, and anointing with oil.**

- 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—lay hands on lame beggar outside of temple and pull him to his feet!
- Paul... Acts 28 heals his friends dad of illness that was killing him.

But there are places in scripture where healing is NOT accompanied by prayer or laying on of hands or anointing oil...

**Healing is GOD’S work—miracles are ALWAYS mysterious because they are ONLY from God!**

- God doesn’t teach us some magical formula to follow so that we can heal people ourselves.

**NO! All supernatural healing is FROM GOD and all glory is FOR GOD.**

- And so it is and will always be AMAZING and MIRACULOUS to us.

Matthew 8—Jesus lays hands on a leper and heals him, and then he heals a guys servant without even seeing him!

Jesus healed this man without seeing him or even being near him!  
This servant is healed as Jesus speaks and proves He is Lord over all.

We see this in the apostles too:

- Paul was in a season of such extraordinary miracles that things got weird...

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

**God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out.**

See, Jesus can do ANYTHING HE WANTS!!

**Acts 5:12-16 (NASB)**

**At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon’s portico. But none of the rest dared to associate with them; however, the people held them in high esteem. And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to *their number*, to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them. Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed.**

These examples from scripture show us that while God wants to work through us, that he does not NEED us to do anything.

- **God is the one who is healing, and no man can take any credit for any part of it!**
- Healing is a supernatural demonstration of God’s power. Period.

**\*\*Paolo and I visiting family of stroke victim at LosRobles... and he wakes up!**

Healing seems to be God saying, “I am able to do whatever I want, and I choose to heal this person.”

**A pattern in Scripture seems to be God loves to heal THROUGH people via “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.
- This is different from many other gifts, like teaching that are given and remain with a person.
- There is no example of anyone having this gift permanently—there are no “faith healers” who heal at will.
  - Only Jesus has this ability—only Jesus is God.
  - So nobody is the “healer”, but rather, ***any Christian can potentially receive a display of God’s power to release someone from affliction*** (through prayer/laying hands)
    - Some of you have seen many people healed...
    - Others have never seen it...
    - The Holy Spirit chooses who, when and why to heal, and He uses people to do it.
- **AND SO—we should ALL ask for a gift of healing when we are lead to do so!**

Some people today say that the gifts of healing are not for today...  
But that’s not what the Bible shows us.

As we talk about HOW this gift works, it is good for us to see that this gift is not just given to apostles:

- **Stephen (Acts 6:8)**—“walking in signs and wonders”
- **Philip (Acts 8:5-7)** —“waked in signs and wonders”—also disappeared!
- **Ananias (Acts 22:12-13)**—“prayed over Saul and Saul’s blindness was healed and became Paul.

**God wants to release the gifts of the Holy Spirit abroad all across His church!**

- This wasn’t just God’s desire for the 1st century church...
- This wasn’t just God’s desire for the Apostles...
- This is God’s desire TODAY—2018.
- **God is STILL on the move.**
- **He is STILL putting Himself on display in miraculous, supernatural fashion.**

So God, in His sovereignty may use you... to heal people supernaturally.

**God is putting Himself on display to declare that GOD is in control—Satan is not.**

**So Why does God give the gift of healing?**

**WHY the Gifts of Healing?**

***Gifts of healing and miracles are God displaying His power to build faith and to release and heal people supernaturally.***

This can be practical...

- There are FELT NEEDS surrounding us at all times.
  - God may use “natural means” to meet these needs...
  - Our “smarts”, or hard work, or our talent, or teamwork, etc...
- However, there are times in life when we run into real FELT needs that can only be met by a supernatural touch from the living God.

- This is why we have gifts of healing.
- **God wants to supernaturally meet these felt needs because God loves broken people.**

We see Jesus' compassion THROUGHOUT His ministry...

**Matthew 14:14 (NASB)**

**When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, felt compassion for them and healed their sick.**

- Jesus is compassionate over broken and lost people.
- Lazarus...

**God's gifts of healing & miracles are not just to meet our felt needs...**

**God gives us gifts so that we might discover His love and forgiveness in Jesus.**

- **God's gifts are given to bear witness to the gospel of the Kingdom.**
- **God's signs and wonders are a glimpse for us to see what we have waiting for us.**

John the Baptist is in jail and questions whether Jesus is messiah—look at Jesus' response:

**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."**

- **Jesus points John to scripture—to show that God is doing exactly what He promised to do.**
- Paul alludes to this as well:

**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.**

This is how we are to communicate the Gospel to the world!

**In demonstration of the Spirit's POWER!**

- This is the pattern THROUGHOUT scripture.
- This is the pattern that gives GOD all of the glory.

**Healing and Miracles are glimpses of God's kingdom—His POWER!.**

*Where does physical affliction come from?*

- Satan may be the source of some afflictions
- Sins I commit may be the source of some affliction

It is not so much the act of sin as much as it is the CONDITION of sin that affects the earth and all of humanity.

- ALL of creation feels the pain of our broken relationship with God.

**Romans 8:22 (NASB)**

**For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.**

**Things are not how they were created to be!**

- **There is a curse on creation, and all of creation is longing to be released from it.**

- This is why there is sickness, injustice, pain, physical degeneration...
- This is why there is so much violence, death, cancer...

**Now, often you're just sick--no one's fault.**

- **Faithful men and women of God get sick...**
  - A supernatural gift of healing is a reversal of the way this fallen world works.
  - Miracles and Healings are God broadcasting that he is in charge.
  - Miracles and Healings are the Kingdom of Heaven colliding with the fallenness of humanity.

Physical affliction is due to a fallen rebellious world.

- Our deepest need is to be healed from the spiritual affliction of sin—not simply physical affliction.

This is the REAL healing ministry that Jesus provides:

**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—there is a time coming when this will happen!**

**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.**

The day is coming when Jesus will restore ALL THINGS!

- The gifts of healing are just a little TASTE of that amazing day!!
- The gifts of healing are like a short movie preview—just a glimpse of what is to come.

**This kingdom of God will be AMAZING—healing will be horribly outdated!**

- **Unnecessary!!**

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

- So, we should expect to see healing happen.
- We should celebrate God as He displays of His power to release someone from affliction.

**God's gifts help provide comfort as we live in this world but fix our minds on Jesus and His kingdom**

- Yes, we should pursue healthy lifestyles to avoid illness and premature death...
- Yes, we should use medicine and bandages to promote healing.
- Yes, we should pursue life-giving times of beauty and solitude in nature to help heal our stress and pursue God...

**BUT—we need to be careful to LEAVE ROOM for God to move supernaturally!**

**Childlike anticipation of the impossible...**

- We should EXPECT that God would move and put Himself on display in powerful ways!

**Let's address some questions that inevitably come up when we study healing and miracles:**

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.



- We should assume the Lord's will is to lead us and heal us!

## 2. Does God always heal?

**No...**

- Paul wasn't healed (Gal. 4:13-14) —bodily ailment —healed others but not himself—or Timothy!
- 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—Paul couldn't heal him.
- Trophimus wasn't healed (2 Tim 4:20). ill. Paul left him sick at Miletus! Couldn't heal him!
- I've known several kids—in this Church!!—who were not healed... Mason Naimo, Daisy, Katrina Anne..

We try to come up with answers for questions like this...but scripture doesn't offer answers...

- Some say it's lack of faith. Really?
    - Jesus says we need just a LITTLE faith...
    - Plus, Daisy had more faith than many adults I know!
    - Thousands of people were encouraged and grew in their faith because of her!
  - Some say it's a lack of prayer....
    - I've never prayed for anyone more than I prayed for Daisy.
    - Her prayer website had 2 million hits.
- **Why was she not healed? We don't know...**
- **Does God always heal? No.**
- **But there are things that we CAN know.**

Here's what we do know...

1. God tells us that we will suffer in this life
  - God is good and right and with us...
  - We need to balance our view of the Kingdom (healing) with a biblical view of suffering (fallenness)
    - There will be sickness and death until Jesus returns...
    - There will be glimpses of this wonderful restoration that is to come
  - This is the "already, but not yet" aspect of the Kingdom

**BUT—God WANTS to heal! THIS IS HIS HEART!**

- **We should see healing and miracles more than we do.**
- **We should ASK FOR HEALING and MIRACLES more than we do!!**

## 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.**

## 3. God's timing is perfect

- Healing is not always instantaneous—you may pray for someone and they aren't healed...
  - They may be healed later that day...
  - Maybe tomorrow...HAVE FAITH!!
  - They may not be healed until Christ comes back—have faith!
- Find comfort in God's perfect timing...

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



## CLOSING—So...

### HOW are gifts of healing & miracles to be practiced?

If you sense God empowering you for a pressing need it will likely be accompanied by faith.

- ***Be sensitive to the Spirit AND the person***

- 1. do they even want to be prayed for? 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 in general.**

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.**