

## The Holy Spirit

### Gifts of Healings

Over the past several weeks we have seen that the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ for both his or her profit and the benefit of the church. The final manifestation that we will explore today is the manifestation of gifts of healings.

Sickness, disease and death were not a part of God's original creation. Illness and death came into our world as a result of Adam's sin as recorded in the book of Genesis.<sup>1</sup> Therefore all sickness is a consequence of the curse of sin. But God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, so that we could be redeemed from sin and its consequences. In Isaiah 53 we have a prophecy concerning the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ and what that sacrifice accomplished for us.

Surely He has borne our griefs  
And carried our sorrows;  
Yet we esteemed Him stricken,  
Smitten by God, and afflicted.  
<sup>5</sup> But He was wounded for our transgressions,  
He was bruised for our iniquities;  
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,  
And by His stripes we are healed.  
<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray;  
We have turned, every one, to his own way;  
And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.  
(Isaiah 53:4-6)

Verse 4 declares that Jesus Christ bore our "griefs" and "sorrows." Literally from the Hebrew it should read that Jesus carried or took our sickness and pain. And verse 5 states that by Christ's stripes, by the wounds he suffered, we are healed. The sickness and healing refers to both spiritual healing, the forgiving of our sins and also to physical healing.

The apostle Peter quoted from Isaiah 53:5 when he wrote about our sins being forgiven. He wrote,

who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree,

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<sup>1</sup> Genesis 2:16, 17; 3:17-19; Romans 5:12-21

that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness  
—by whose stripes you were healed.  
(1 Peter 2:24)

Matthew quoted from Isaiah 53:4 with regard to physical healing.

When evening had come, they brought to Him many  
who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits  
with a word, and healed all who were sick, <sup>17</sup> that it might  
be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

“He Himself took our infirmities  
And bore our sicknesses.”  
(Matthew 8:16, 17)

These are wonderful and comforting sections of Scripture. They are true and they give us hope. And yet we will never be totally free from either sin or sickness until we are glorified at the return of Jesus Christ. With the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ there is an already but not yet tension in our salvation. For example we are already saved from our sins<sup>2</sup> and yet, Romans 13:11 says to us “for now our salvation *is* nearer than when we *first* believed.” In other words we are saved, but we will not see the full release from the power of sin until Christ returns.

In the same way physical, emotional and mental healings are available from God.<sup>3</sup> But Romans 8:23 declares that “we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.” And so we are waiting for the day when our bodies will be fully glorified and we will never be sick again. But as we wait for the day when, as Philippians 3:21 says Christ “will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body” God may in grace and mercy energize the manifestation of gifts of healings. Here is the definition of gifts of healings.

- Gifts of healings is your God-given ability to bring to pass healings at every level of human need (physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually) according to what God has revealed to you by word of knowledge, word of wisdom and or discerning of spirits.

Now before we examine some of the different methods by which God brings about healings, I would like to address the issue of using medicines. People ask if it is right to see a doctor and use medicine or if they should just trust

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<sup>2</sup> Romans 10:9, 10; Ephesians 1:7

<sup>3</sup> Psalm 103:1-3

God to be healed. My answer is that we should do both. The medicines that are available to us are made from all that God created. And God originally created all things for our good. The Good Samaritan used wine (an antiseptic) and oil when giving aid to a wounded man.<sup>4</sup> The apostle Paul advised Timothy to use a little wine for his frequent stomach problems.<sup>5</sup> And he called Luke “the beloved physician”<sup>6</sup> not Luke who used to be a doctor.

In fact not taking medicine may be sinful if we are testing God to see if He will heal us. In Matthew 4 the devil tempted Jesus to jump off the pinnacle of the temple to prove God would rescue him. And Jesus quoting Scripture responded by saying “You shall not tempt the Lord your God.”<sup>7</sup> And so it is wrong to stop taking medicine to test God to see if He will heal you or someone else.

On the other hand, it is also wrong to rely on medicine alone without trusting God. 2 Chronicles warns us about King Asa who

became diseased in his feet, and his malady was severe; yet in his disease he did not seek the LORD, but the physicians. <sup>13</sup> So Asa rested with his fathers; he died in the forty-first year of his reign.  
(2 Chronicles 16:12, 13)

With all of this as a foundation let's look at some examples of gifts of healings.

Now He arose from the synagogue and entered Simon's house. But Simon's wife's mother was sick with a high fever, and they made request of Him concerning her. <sup>39</sup> So He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. And immediately she arose and served them.  
(Luke 4:38, 39)

In this healing of Peter's mother-in-law Jesus spoke to the fever and rebuked it. Mark in his gospel tells us that Jesus also took her by the hand.<sup>8</sup> So there was a spoken word and also the intimacy of a touch. In the healings that follow this in Luke Jesus touched or laid his hands on everyone who was healed.

When the sun was setting, all those who had any that

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<sup>4</sup> Luke 10:34

<sup>5</sup> 1 Timothy 5:23

<sup>6</sup> Colossians 4:14

<sup>7</sup> Matthew 4:5, 7

<sup>8</sup> Mark 1:29-31

were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them. <sup>41</sup> And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, "You are the Christ, the Son of God!" And He, rebuking *them*, did not allow them to speak, for they knew that He was the Christ.  
(Luke 4:40-41)

Touching someone with the love and compassion of God can be very healing. I remember being at a men's Bible conference years ago. It was a camping experience and we were sitting around a campfire. But the weather was cold and I was shivering and my body ached. And one of the leaders of the event came up behind me and just put his hands on my shoulders. Immediately I was warmed through and my body stopped aching. Let's look at another example from the gospel of Mark.

Now a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, "If You are willing, You can make me clean." <sup>41</sup> Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out *His* hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed." <sup>42</sup> As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed.  
(Mark 1:40-42)

Here again both the spoken word and physical touch were needed for the miracle of the healing of the leper. And can you imagine how deeply moved the leprous man was because Jesus Christ touched him? You were not allowed to touch a leper. I wonder how many years had gone by where this man felt like an outcast. Indeed he was! No one touched him with love and kindness—until the Lord touched him.

Healing, whether physically, emotionally, mentally or spiritually is an act of God's grace. And therefore our love and compassion are just as needed to bring about healing as is the power of God. Also, often anointing someone with oil was a point of contact for the manifestation of gifts of healings. In Mark 6 Jesus sent out the apostles to proclaim the good news. They did and they also brought healing to many.

So they went out and preached that *people* should repent. <sup>13</sup> And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed *them*.  
(Mark 6:12, 13)

In ancient times olive oil was often used as a salve and at times medicines were mixed in with the oil. Olive oil was also used to anoint people as a symbol of the presence of God's Spirit.<sup>9</sup> Another example of anointing with oil is in the book of James.

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. <sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup>Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.  
(James 5:14-16)

Here again we have the action of anointing the sick person with oil, symbolizing the presence of God. And we also have the prayer of faith and the confession of sins. In the Bible faith is essential for healing. Sometimes the faith of the sick person is seen.<sup>10</sup> At other times the faith of others brings healing, as with the elders here in James. Do you remember the story of the four friends who brought their sick friend to Jesus to be healed? Let's read it.

And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house.  
<sup>2</sup>Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive *them*, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. <sup>3</sup>Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four *men*. <sup>4</sup>And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.  
<sup>5</sup>When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."  
(Mark 2:1-5)

In this healing it was the faith of the sick man's friends that was the catalyst for the healing. And notice too that there is the forgiveness of sins. Unconfessed sin can cause guilt and severe anxiety and depression. And all of

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<sup>9</sup> 1 Samuel 16:13; 2 Corinthians 1:21, 22

<sup>10</sup> Luke 8:48; 17:15

this can have a negative effect on the mind and body. So now the healing takes place.

But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic,  
<sup>11</sup> "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."  
<sup>12</sup> Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw *anything* like this!"  
(Mark 2:10-12)

We need to believe for healings and to pray for healings. And we need to desire to manifest gifts of healings. But we are still living in a fallen world and the kingdom of God has not yet come. Romans 8 tells us that even we,

who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.  
(v. 23)

Sometimes there is not the miracle of gifts of healings. Sometimes we need to endure like Paul's friend Trophimus.

Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.  
<sup>20</sup> Erastus stayed in Corinth, but Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick.  
(2 Timothy 4:19, 20)

Isn't that interesting? Paul left a friend who was sick. If anyone could manifest gifts of healings for someone it was the apostle Paul. And yet here he could do nothing to bring about his friend's healing. While we do our best to stay healthy and while we do our best to believe God for healings, we are not yet fully redeemed. At some point, unless the Lord Jesus Christ returns first, all of us will get sick and eventually die.

We should never condemn people who are sick. We should never accuse someone for a lack of faith. We must be compassionate and tender with people. There is a time of healing coming when we will never be sick again.

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. <sup>2</sup> Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

<sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying,  
“Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and  
He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people.  
God Himself will be with them *and be* their God.

<sup>4</sup> And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes;  
there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying.  
There shall be no more pain, for the former things  
have passed away.”

(Revelation 21:1-4)

Until this glorious day arrives let us have faith in God and in the Lord Jesus Christ. And let us love people with the love of God. Let us believe to manifest the Spirit in all the nine ways that are available to us. But above all, let us make known the good news so that people can experience the greatest miracle of all—the new birth.