

Understanding Spiritual Gifts

Part 12

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River of Life
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Pastor Joe Daltorio

Gifts of healing

The Post-Modern Western Cultural Worldview does not affirm miracles or supernatural healing

1 Corinthians 2:14 But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means. – NLT

- The non-Christian worldview in the West is primarily “materialistic” and “scientific.”
- Materialists reject the existence of a spiritual world
- I believe true science and faith do not disagree
- Unfortunately, today much of science is political and philosophical in nature and is not true science
- Science cannot always evaluate spiritual truth – but sometimes it can. i.e. Carolyn Leaf and Neurogenesis and Neuroplasticity or The University of Pennsylvania Study on Speaking in Tongues

Compilation of 1,500 studies on Faith and Healing

“Studies have shown prayer can prevent people from getting sick — and when they do get sick, prayer can help them get better faster,” Duke University’s Harold G. Koenig, M.D., tells Newsmax Health.

An exhaustive analysis of more than 1,500 reputable medical studies “indicates people who are more religious and pray more have better mental and physical health,” Dr. Koenig says. . .

Research at San Francisco General Hospital looked at the effect of prayer on 393 cardiac patients. Half were prayed for by strangers who had only the patients’ names. Those patients had fewer complications, fewer cases of pneumonia, and needed less drug treatment.

Many People in Medicine also believe in miracles!

The Louis Finkelstein Institute for Religious and Social Studies of The Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City sponsored a national survey of 1,100 doctors on the subject of miracles, on the weekend prior to Christmas 2004. The results were:

Physicians believing that miracles have occurred in the past: 74 percent.

Physicians believing miracles can occur today: 73 percent.

Gifts of healing

Provided for the healing of different kinds of sickness or diseases, apart from healing by natural means. This gift is imparted often through the laying on of hands or proclamation of a “word” from God.

- The Bible shows that sickness can be rooted in the spiritual, emotional, or physical sphere of our being
- The Bible affirms that sickness and disease were not part of God’s original design – but became part of our broken world as the result of Mankind’s fall and the entrance of evil to the world.
- Most Christians accept the bulk of science regarding disease and the treatment of disease.
- BUT, Christians also affirm that God can suspend natural law and intervene in the life of a sick person – We see that all through Scripture
- Thank God for breakthroughs in modern medicine – BUT, don’t forget to pray and believe!

Applications of the Gifts of Healing

- To reveal God's love by relieving human suffering through the grace and power of God
- To authenticate God's Word and witness in the world
- To reveal God's ultimate intention to restore all things as His Kingdom is established
- Getting Confirmation of Healing: [Mark 1:44](#) ""See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them."
- If you have been authentically healed – It is right and proper to get this confirmed by your physician. (Caveat, beware physicians/ Medical personnel who are anti-faith)

Five Roots for Disease on Sickness

The root of the sickness will determine how you minister healing to a person. Roots of sickness: (Beware of formulas)

1. Spiritual – demonic oppression or affliction, curses, generational strongholds & patterns of disease
2. Organic/ Physical Injury – natural injury, organic disease caused by infection, effects of aging,
3. Sin – Lifestyle problems caused by disobedience to God
 - Curses can be self-imposed through sin or imposed by the enemy:
 - [1 Corinthians 11:27-30](#) So anyone who eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord unworthily is guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. That is why you should examine yourself before eating the bread and drinking the cup. For if you eat the bread or drink the cup without honoring the body of Christ, you are eating and drinking God's judgment upon yourself. That is why many of you are weak and sick and some have even died.

Roots of sickness:

3. Sin – Lifestyle problems caused by disobedience to God

(cont.) Stress or disease can be caused by:

- *Rebellion*
- *Unforgiveness*
- *Unhealed spiritual wounds – injustices in our lives*
- *Sexual immorality*
- *Bitterness*
- *Slander & Accusation*
- *Envy and Jealousy*
- *Rejection*
- *Occultism*
- *Addictions*
- *Anger & Rage*
- *Walking in fear and anxiety*
- *Etc.*
- *Caution – Are healing is not based on our worthiness- always grace*

Roots of sickness:

4. Stewardship of our health- God expects us to be good managers of our body and health!

- Can we dishonor God in stewardship of our health and then expect God to do miracles?
- Do we overload our body (sugars, fat, sodas, gluttony, etc.)
- Do you honor the Sabbath and rest? (The day vs. the principle)
- Is exercise part of your life?

Roots of sickness:

5. “Sickness unto death” – Healing is temporary until Jesus’ returns and establishes His Kingdom fully in the earth

- John 11:1-4, “A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha. This is the Mary who later poured the expensive perfume on the Lord’s feet and wiped them with her hair. Her brother, Lazarus, was sick. So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, “Lord, your dear friend is very sick.” But when Jesus heard about it he said, “Lazarus’s sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this.” – NIV
- John 9:3 “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.
- Sickness is part of the natural order in our broken world
- Healing is a supernatural suspension of the natural order
- Sickness will be totally eradicated when Jesus returns to set up His eternal Kingdom – Revelation 21:1-7

Gifts of miracles

An event that overrides or defies the natural laws or system of order in the universe, by God's power and will.

Scriptures: Exodus 14:21-31, Joshua 10:12-14, 1 Kings 17:8-16, Matthew 14:22-23, Mark 6:38-44, Acts 8:39-40

Acts 8:39-40 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and travelled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea. - NIV

Gifts of Miracles

Applications of the Gifts of Healing

- to bring deliverance to God's people
- to confirm God's Word and witness, to aid the spreading of the Gospel
- to meet a crisis need

Modern Examples

- Everyday miracles – Christian Author Dr. Linda Mintle
- The Bike Accident – Miracle of healing
- Pastor Daniel Ekechukwu



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