

## THE GIFTS OF HEALING

### 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28, 30

**Introduction:** The word used in the text is plural, thus gifts, meaning different kinds of illnesses, such as body, mental, spiritual healings. All of us have been ill at one time or other and in all probability have had bodily, mental and spiritual needs. Physical illness affects us all, at all ages and mental illness affects us sometimes after some physical illness has brought us down. Sadly, we also have suffered spiritual illness as well. The Holy Spirit gives to believers the gift of healing different in different ways, and different illnesses. We have all prayed for someone to be healed of his/her sickness and our prayers seemed to fail, to "fall on deaf ears" for some reason.

### I. ISNT IT ALRIGHT TO GO TO GOD FOR HEALING?

1. Yes, of course it is alright to go to God and ask for healing.
  - Before going to God, however, people usually try everything else first.
  - All healing comes from God.
2. It is right to ask God for healing - *Exodus 15:26 - Matthew 8:16-17; Romans 8:11*
  - God is God and can do anything - Jesus healed - the Holy Spirit indwells and heals.
3. God has healed in times past - *Genesis 20:7; Numbers 12:14; Isaiah 38:4-5*
  - The story is told about Paul Anderson, who at one time was the world's strongest man, who at the age of four years was not expected to live. His grandfather prayed for the young boy's healing, God heard, the boy was healed and lived to become, as stated, the world's strongest man, in his time.
4. Oh yes, it's very right to ask God for healing.

### II. WHAT ABOUT THE "PROFESSIONAL" DIVINE HEALERS AND THEIR "GIFTS?"

1. These "healings" are not the same for there is a difference between God healing and "gifts" of healing.
  - The "gift" of healing given by the Holy Spirit is used for proving, for authenticating the start of the Gospel, the Church.
    - Jesus healed - *Acts 2:22; 10:38*
    - The Apostles healed - *Acts 4:30*
    - Paul healed - *2 Corinthians 12:12*
2. In today's Church age time, the written word has replaced the "sign" which healing gave.
  - *Joshua 5:11-12* - There came a time when the manna from heaven ceased for the need for it ended when Israel came into their own land finally.
3. It has been said that in England there are over 4,000 "healers" and many of them not associated with the Church and that thousands have reported being healed.
  - There has been a time with television had it's "healers" who asked those who were ill to send in a photograph and a "love" gift, and he would pray over the photograph.
  - Some of the television "healers" would ask for a "donation" and then they would send a "faith" cloth that would bring healing.

- Authentic physicians have stated that 85% of the time people get well whether they send in their money to television "healers" or not.
- If one has the "gift" of healing, that gift should be used in hospitals, not for rent on television or in some arena or auditorium aisle.

### **III. THE DOCTRINES OF "PROFESSIONAL" HEALERS**

1. Those who "heal" for a fee say that God wills that we never be sick - however people still get sick.  
- *1 Timothy 5:23; 2 Timothy 4:20; 1 Corinthians 12:7, 11*
2. People just don't use God's gifts as they wish.
3. People say that Jesus healed all the sick - you get sick don't you, does that mean that Jesus doesn't love you? The fact is that Jesus never healed everybody. His disciples died! Jesus withdrew from the multitudes - Jesus didn't heal everybody who was sick.
4. The professional healers say that sin brings illness. Well Jesus died for sin, therefore when a Christian becomes ill, he/she must have sinned.  
- The fact is that every person, Christians, included, will continue to be in and out of sin till they die and finally leave this old world.

### **IV. THE FACT IS THAT ILLNESS IS NOT A SIGN OF DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD**

1. The "professional" healers say to "get right with God, do His will and be healed."  
- What about Job? Didn't God say that in spite of Job having so illness and tragedy Job was the best man on earth?  
- *John 9:1-3; 11:4; 2 Corinthians 4:16; Philippians 2:27; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10*
2. You rub up against a poison ivy vine and you break out in itchy sores.  
- You disobey the "laws" of nature and illness or worse is the result.  
- Step out in front of a fast moving vehicle and see what happens.  
- Stay in the room with somebody who has the flu and is coughing all the time and guess what?
3. God can and does bring affliction but not always and not often.
4. ALL healing is from God and His grace enables us to endure illnesses.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Everybody gets sick at one time or other and NO it's not because one has sinned - necessarily.
2. God still heals but there are also doctors, medications and hospitals.
3. "Professional" healers mislead, misquote, and misrepresent God's true, genuine gifts of healing.
4. God healed in the Old Testament, Jesus healed when He was here, the Disciples healed as they started the Church.
5. It is right, it is proper, it is biblical, it is theological, it is the Christian's given right to go to God and ask for healing for Jesus promised that God would hear and answer in the way that is best for what is being asked for.
6. The Holy Spirit gave the gifts of healing among the other gifts to be used for the glory of God.