

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND HEALING

What distinguishes Christianity from other religions? It is that God dwells in the midst of us and reveals Himself in power and glory (Exodus 33:16; 34:9-10). Yes, God still does that, but the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit (under the New Covenant) makes God much more visible than ever before. Jesus asked His Father to send the Holy Spirit to dwell in His Bride (the Church), and to manifest Himself in her with power. Therefore, His bride's wellbeing and her prosperity depend entirely upon the Holy Spirit's presence. Through the ages the Church has sought to have manifestations of God's Spirit - to see miracles. In this regard, it is perfectly acceptable to expect signs and wonders to accompany the preaching of God's Word.

The Holy Spirit operates as He wills in various and diverse ways, in any member of the Church. Hence, it is possible for someone to be filled with the Holy Spirit for one special assignment and not for another. There are also times in Church history when certain Gifts of the Spirit were manifest with power, while at the same time ignorance or unbelief have hindered other gifts from operating. Therefore, wherever the life "more abundant of the Spirit" is found, there we can expect Him to manifest His gifts. ***"There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different 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 as He wills"*** (1 Corinthians 12:5:11).

The “Gifts of Healings” is one of the most beautiful manifestations of the Spirit. It is recorded of Jesus, **“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth... who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil”** (Acts 10: 38). The Holy Spirit in Him was a “healing Spirit,” and He was the same Spirit that was in the disciples after Pentecost. For that reason, signs and wonders was a continuous experience of the early Church (Acts 3:7; 4:30; 5:12,15-16; 6:8; 8:7; 9:41; 14:9-10; 16:18-19; 19:12; 28:8-9). The abundant and continuous outpouring of the Spirit produced abundant and continuous healings. What a lesson for the Church today! The early Church wasn’t seeker-sensitive or politically correct; it did not have clever church programs, Christian television, or seminars. But what it did have made all the difference! The early Church had a special measure of the Holy Spirit.

Divine healing is the work of the Holy Spirit. Christ’s redemption has extended it’s powerful working to the physical body, and the Holy Spirit is responsible both to transmit it to and maintain it in us. Our body shares in all the benefits of the redemptive work of the Cross, and even now it can receive the promise of divine **healing**. It is Jesus who heals, Jesus who anoints and baptises with the Holy Spirit. Jesus, who baptised His disciples with the same Spirit, is He who sends us the Holy Spirit here on earth today - either to keep sickness away from us, or to restore us to health when sickness has taken hold of us. Divine healing accompanies sanctification by the Spirit. It’s the Holy Spirit who makes us partakers of Christ’s redemption. Therefore, the **healing** that He works is an intrinsic part of His divine mission. The Holy Spirit heals a person either to believe and to get him saved, or to confirm his faith if he is already converted. Through healing his body the Spirit encourages a person to renounce sin, and to consecrate himself entirely to God and to His service (1 Corinthians 10:31; James 5:15, 16; Hebrews 12:10).

Note, divine **healing** always glorifies Jesus Christ. It is God's will that His Son be glorified, and the Holy Spirit does this when He comes to demonstrate what the redemptive work of Christ has done for us. In the natural, the redemption of the mortal body appears almost more marvellous than that of the immortal soul. It is in this way that God wills to dwell in us through Christ, and consequently to triumph over the flesh. Once our body becomes the temple of God, through the Spirit, Jesus is glorified. For the temple must be "whole" as well as holy!

Divine **healing** takes place wherever the Spirit of God wills to work in power. Some say there are thirty-nine Gifts of Healings. They believe that all human disease falls into thirty-nine categories. Others believe that there are twelve Gifts of Healings, so they believe that all human disease falls into only twelve categories. However, the Bible does not tell us how many Gifts of Healings there are, therefore, we should not try to work out how many the Holy Spirit can manifest. But what we can say is this ... There is absolutely no sickness, no disease and no injury that God is unable to heal. The redemptive work of Christ secured this privilege for us.

We also know that one person may be used more specifically than another with the Gifts of Healings. For example, one might have great success praying for growths and tumours, while another might have great success praying only for blindness, deafness, etc. Only Jesus had a 100% success rate in praying for all sickness, disease and injury when people believed (Mark 6:1-6). This is because He had the Spirit of God on His life without measure (John 3:34). No one person has **healing power** like Jesus had healing power! Individuals of the past such as John G. Lake, Kathryn Kuhlman, William Branham and others, certainly tapped in to the power of God and saw astounding healing miracles, but no one ever had (or ever will have) **healing power** available to them in the way that Jesus did.

This is because no one can handle the world throwing themselves at their feet in the way that only Jesus could. His fame and notoriety did not effect Him. Jesus had one goal and that was to glorify His Father. Now, the Body of Christ corporately shares in the **power** of Jesus. By this I mean that the power that was on Jesus when He walked the earth is now upon His Bride (the entire Body) - as She walks the earth. This is the reason why one person operates in certain Gifts while another operates in completely different Gifts. ***“But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills”***

“Now Peter and John went up together into the temple ... A certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple ... Who seeing Peter and John ... asked an alms. And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter said ... In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and anklebones received strength. And he leaping up stood ... walking, and leaping, and praising God.” (Acts 3:1-8)

This was the Gifts of Healings in operation. The healing was entirely supernatural and instantaneous. Peter and John did not heal this man, the Holy Spirit came upon Peter to heal this man. When the Gifts of Healings are in operation, the healing is often instant, even if the person does not feel that it is at the time. But remember, God never makes people sick. The devil does that and then blames God. This is why God has provided the Gifts of Healings to operate on behalf of His children. But we have a part to play! We are required to meditate on His Word and allow the Holy Spirit to decide how we will be healed. And we need to have the faith to receive our healing when He distributes His Gifts.

This can happen either through the recovery process (Mark 16:17,18), or through instantaneous Gifts of Healings. Either way, if we will keep the “healing Word” before our eyes, complete healing is guaranteed to come. ***“My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh”*** (Proverbs 4:20-22).

Jesus is alive and therefore all the Gifts still operate today. Let me tell you - I have witnessed them! We need to see these Gifts more in the world as well as in the Church. I am fully persuaded that we are about to see a tremendous manifestation of all the Power Gifts in our midst. This is why the Holy Spirit is leading us the way He has been over the past few weeks. So why not start by being expectant, and prepare yourself for what is to come!

Mark 16:17-18, ***“And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”***

James 5:14-15. ***“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. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.”***