

INTRODUCTION

**“Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit...”
(1 Corinthians 14:1, NIV, emphasis added)**

- God has called us to eagerly desire (from the Greek word *zēloō*, meaning to pursue with zeal) the spiritual gifts He gives, but this call is in the context of walking in His love (*agape*)

**“Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.”
(1 Corinthians 12:1, emphasis added)**

- It’s God’s desire that we not be ignorant (*agnōeō*) of the gifts that He gives us, but to grow in them and understand what they are, and that it is His Holy Spirit who releases them.
- God gives gifts of healing by His Holy Spirit through His people (1 Cor. 12:9)

I. WHAT IS THE GIFT OF HEALING?

A. Healing (Greek *iama*, Hebrew *rāpā*): Biblically, the curing of or restoration from any sickness, disease, injury, or ailment in the body, mind, heart, or soul of a person; also, to make something that was broken whole or healthy again (Gen. 20:17; 1 Sam. 6:3; 2 Ki. 2:21-22; Ps. 6:2, 147:3; Lk. 6:17-18, 9:11, 9:42; Acts 9:34, 10:38, 28:8; Jas. 5:14-16)

B. Release of healing is a *gift* (Greek *charisma*), just like all of the other gifts of the Spirit. It’s not something we earn, but freely receive from the Lord with humility.

C. As believers, we can all walk in the gift of healing because Jesus promised it

“¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸ they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.” (Mark 16:17-18, emphasis added)

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.”
(John 14:12, emphasis added)

II. HEALING & DELIVERANCE

- A. In the Scriptures we see people healed physically or mentally and delivered (*sōzō*) spiritually at the same time (Mark 9:17-29; Luke 6:18, 9:37-42; Acts 10:38), but this does not mean that *every* sickness, disease, or ailment is always caused by an unclean spirit.
- B. Likewise, we see in the Scriptures that sin and the consequences thereof can be a cause of sickness, disease, and ailments (2 Chr. 21:12-15; Acts 13:11), but that doesn't mean that whenever a person is sick or broken that it's due to their sin.

“¹As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.”
(John 9:1-3, emphasis added)

- C. It is important that as we approach ministering in healing that we do not make natural or spiritual assumptions about why a person is sick or has an ailment. The gift from God is for us to bring healing, not diagnose a person's natural or spiritual situation.
- D. Natural healing, nutrition, and care is a gift from God also! Pursuing natural healing as we pursue God is not always wrong.

“No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.” (1 Timothy. 5:23)

III. MINISTERING HEALING

- A. Pray and declare

“¹⁴Is 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. ¹⁵And 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. ¹⁶Therefore, 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.”
(James 5:14-16, emphasis added)

- B. Laying on of hands is okay if the person is okay with it (always ask), but you don't have to do this for people to be healed.

⁵ When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. ⁶ “Lord,” he said, “my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly.” ⁷ Jesus said to him, “Shall I come and heal him?” ⁸ The centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

¹³ Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would.” And his servant was healed at that moment.
(Matthew 8:5-9, 13, emphasis added)

- C. Don't be afraid to linger, and don't give up on praying if healing doesn't manifest immediately (Luke 18:1-7). Engage with the person you're ministering to and see how they're doing.

²² They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. ²³ He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, “Do you see anything?” ²⁴ He looked up and said, “I see people; they look like trees walking around.” ²⁵ Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. (Mark 8:22-25, emphasis added)

- D. Don't worry about fancy words or speaking emphatically

¹And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. ² For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. ⁴ My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power. (1 Corinthians 2:1-3, emphasis added)

- E. Minister with compassion

¹⁴ When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. (Matthew 14:14)

³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him.
(Luke 10:32-34)