

LXXVIII. JESUS CAN HEAL YOU—THE SPIRITUAL GIFT OF HEALING: 1 Corinthians 12:9

INTRODUCTION. Brothers and sisters in Christ, friends and visitors, we come again to 1 Corinthians 12, and today we are looking at the spiritual gifts of healings. We are spending an entire sermon on this one half of this one verse for multiple reasons.

1. Because disease is the number one physical problem in the world and causes the most suffering.
2. Because it is so widely misunderstood and misapplied.
3. Because Jesus can heal you.

BOYS AND GIRLS [*rehash three points*]

CON(TEXT). 1 Corinthians 12:9b

"...to another gifts of healing[s] by the one Spirit..."

DOCTRINE. Jesus still heals people today, even though the spiritual gifts of healings have ceased.

OUTLINE. Six main truths we need to make note of.

I. JESUS HEALED DURING HIS EARTHLY MINISTRY (Selected Scriptures).

Matthew 4:23-24 "23 And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. 24 So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them."

Note, Jesus did not heal because He had spiritual gifts of healings, like those mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:9. Jesus healed because He is the God-man and has both the power and authority to heal at will.

- **CALVIN:** "[Jesus is God.] How clearly and transparently does appear in his miracles? I admit that similar and equal miracles were performed by the prophets and apostles; but there is this very essential difference, that they dispensed the gifts of God as his ministers, whereas he exerted his own inherent might." — **John Calvin,**

Institutes of the Christian Religion, trans. Ford Lewis Battles, ed. John T. McNeill, vol. 1 (Philadelphia: Westminster John Knox Press, 1960), 1.13.13.

- **GOODWIN:** *"And so when [Jesus] wrought miracles...[they] were the immediate demonstration that he was the Son of God, dwelling in the human nature personally, as himself argues, throughout that Gospel [i.e., the Gospel of John], against the Jews."* — Thomas Goodwin, *The Works of Thomas Goodwin*, vol. 5 (Edinburgh: James Nichol, 1861–1866), 109–110.
- **BOYS AND GIRLS,** Jesus is the God-man, both truly God and truly man. And when he was on the earth walking around, he would heal people not because he had a spiritual gift like it says in 1 Corinthians 12:9—no! Jesus healed because He is God and He can do whatever He wants whenever He wants.

II. THE APOSTLES, AND THOSE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THEM, HAD GIFTS OF HEALINGS DURING THEIR EARLY MINISTRIES (Selected Scriptures).

PETER AND JOHN. Acts 3:1-10 "1 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. 2 And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. 3 Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. 4 And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." 5 And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. 6 But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" 7 And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. 8 And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him."

PETER. Acts 5:12-16 "12 Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. 13 None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. 14 And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, 15 so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. 16 The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed."

PAUL. Acts 14:8-11 "8 Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. 9 He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, 10 said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he sprang up and began walking. 11 And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!"

III. HEALINGS WERE MIRACULOUS, INSTANTANEOUS, AND VERIFIABLE (Selected Scriptures).

JESUS:

Jesus healed a man with a withered hand. "Then he said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other" (**Matthew 12:13**).

Jesus said to a paralytic, "'I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.' And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, 'We never saw anything like this!'" (**Mark 2:11-12**).

To an invalid "Jesus said to him, 'Get up, take up your bed, and walk.' And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked" (**John 5:8-9**).

To a blind made Jesus made mud out of spit and dirt, and anointed the man's eyes, "and [Jesus] said to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing" (**John 9:7**).

To a deaf man with a speech impediment, "[Jesus] put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And his ears were opened, his tongue was released," (**Mark 7:33-35**).

Jesus healed a leper. "And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.' And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, 'I will; be clean.' And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. And Jesus said to him, 'See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them.'" (**Matthew 8:2-4**). **VERIFIABLE*

APOSTLES:

The Apostles healed people miraculously, instantaneously, and verifiably.

John 3:1-10 "1 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. 2 And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. 3 Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. 4 And Peter directed his gaze at him, as

did John, and said, "Look at us." 5 And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. 6 But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" 7 And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. 8 And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him."

BOYS AND GIRLS *The healings of Jesus and His apostles were miraculous, instantaneous, and verifiable.*

IV. HEALINGS WERE ACCOMPLISHED AS SIGNS TO VERIFY THE MESSENGERS OF THE GOSPEL (Selected Scriptures).

BOYS AND GIRLS *do you know what a sign is for? To point to something else.*

JESUS: John 2:11 "This (*turning water to wine at a wedding in Cana*), the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him."

John 20:30-31 "30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

APOSTLES: 2 Corinthians 12:12 "The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works."

Romans 15:17-20 "17 In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. 18 For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience-by word and deed, 19 by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God-so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; 20 and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation. . ."

V. GIFTS OF HEALINGS CEASED WHEN THEY WERE NO LONGER NECESSARY AS SIGNS TO VERIFY THE MESSENGERS OF THE GOSPEL (Selected Scriptures).

(i) **PAUL LEFT TROPHIMUS SICK AT MILETUS. 2 Timothy 4:20** "Erastus remained at Corinth, and I left Trophimus, who was ill, at Miletus."

(ii) PAUL TOLD TIMOTHY TO DRINK A LITTLE WINE FOR HIS FREQUENT AILMENTS. 1 Timothy 5:23 "No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments."

(iii) ADDITIONALLY, THE GIFTS OF HEALINGS DISAPPEARS FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS ABOUT HALF WAY THROUGH. See the Acts of the Apostles.

(iv) THE LATTER EPISTLES WRITTEN BY THE APOSTLES MAKE NO MENTION OF GIFTS OF HEALINGS EVEN WHEN THEY LIST SPIRITUAL GIFTS.

Romans 12:6-8 "6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness."

1 Peter 4:10-11 "10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever *speaks*, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever *serves*, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

VI. THOUGH THE GIFTS OF HEALINGS HAVE CEASED, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST STILL HEALS TODAY (Selected Scriptures).

I) Jesus spiritually heals today.

Matthew 13:15 "For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them."

1 Peter 2:24 "24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls."

Mark 2:16-17 "16 And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, 'Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?' 17 And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.'"

BOYS AND GIRLS

THIS IS WHAT IS MOST NEEDED! Trust in Christ alone for eternal life. Be

baptized. Join the church. Walk with the saints all the days of your life for God's glory, your good, and other's gladness.

II) Jesus physically heals today.

James 5:14-15 "14 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. 15 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."

BOYS AND GIRLS

TWO THINGS NEED TO BE SAID HERE:

(i) Pray for healing.

(ii) Do not neglect the gifts of modern medicine, a healthy diet, and physical fitness.

Our Larger Catechism, in what is required in the sixth commandment says, "A sober use of meat, drink, physic, sleep, labor, and recreations."

Many Christians would like to be physically healed by Christ yet they fill their bodies with poisons OR they stuff their bellies in gluttony OR and they grow weak and weary through a lack of disciplined effort and exercise, all the while wondering why they are always sick. We must not treat our bodies in such ways, brothers and sisters.

Do not neglect how important it is what you eat and drink.

Do not neglect how important it is to exercise.

Do not neglect how important it is to be physically fit.

Do not neglect how important it is for your health-span to be strong.

Do not neglect how important it is for your health-span to be lean.

Do not neglect the blessing of godly doctors nor the tools of modern medicine. it is important

CONCLUSION (6 things).

1. Christ may heal you in this life so that you may serve Him and others.

- **Mark 1:30-31** "30 Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. 31 And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them."

2. Christ may leave you sick in this life for His glory.

- **John 11:6** "So, when [Jesus] heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was."

3. Christ will certainly sanctify you, if you are a Christian, through whatever thorn in the flesh He permits to stab you.

- **2 Corinthians 12:7** "So to keep me from becoming conceited. . . a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited."
 - **Romans 5:3-5** "3 we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

4. Christ will prepare you for glory through suffering, if you belong to Him.

- **2 Corinthians 4:17** "For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,"

5. Christ will work all things together for His glory and your good, even sickness, if you trust in Him alone for salvation.

- **Romans 8:28** "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

6. Christ will certainly heal you in the life to come (if you cling to Him by faith alone).

- **Revelation 21:4** "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Christ Jesus will heal every sickness of every believer because this is one of the reasons He died and was raised! Sometimes Christ heals His people in this life, sometimes He leaves them sick, but always He will heal them in the life to come!

- **(i) Sometimes Christ heals people in this life, like in Matthew 8!**
Matthew 8:16-18 "16 That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. 17 This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: 'He took our illnesses and bore our diseases.'"
- **(ii) Sometimes Christ leaves people sick, like Trophimus in 2 Timothy 4!**
2 Timothy 4:20 "I left Trophimus, who was ill, at Miletus."
- **(iii) Always Christ will heal His people in the life to come, like in Revelation 21!**
Revelation 21:4 "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

STUDY AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Comprehension and Key Biblical Teaching Questions

1. What is the main doctrine or central thesis the preacher presents about healing? ("Jesus still heals people today both spiritually and physically even though the spiritual gifts of healings have ceased.") How does this distinction between Jesus' ongoing healing power and the ceased spiritual gift shape your understanding?
2. Why does the preacher emphasize that Paul uses plural words ("gifts" and "healings") in 1 Corinthians 12:9? What does this suggest about the nature of these gifts in the early church?
3. The sermon gives three reasons for devoting an entire message to this half-verse. What are they, and why do you think disease/suffering, misunderstandings (especially in regions like near Tulsa), and the reality of Jesus' healing power make this topic worth careful study?
4. How does the sermon distinguish between Jesus' healings during His earthly ministry and the spiritual gifts of healings given to apostles and others? Why is it important that Jesus healed "because He is God," not because He had a spiritual gift?

Questions on Biblical Examples and Characteristics of Healings

5. Read Acts 3:1-10 (Peter and John healing the lame man) and Acts 14:8-11 (Paul healing the crippled man in Lystra). What do these show about who exercised the gifts of healings and during what period ("early ministries")?
6. The sermon describes biblical healings as **miraculous**, **instantaneous**, and **verifiable**. Using examples like the withered hand (Matthew 12:13), the paralytic (Mark 2:11-12), the blind man (John 9:7), or the leper (Matthew 8:2-4), explain how each characteristic applies. Why does the preacher contrast this with modern claims of healing?
7. Why does the sermon argue that true biblical healings served as **signs**? Reference John 20:30-31 and 2 Corinthians 12:12. What were they pointing to (Jesus' identity, the apostles' authority, the truth of the gospel)?

Questions on Cessation of the Gifts

8. What evidence does the sermon provide that the spiritual gifts of healings have ceased? Consider examples like Paul leaving Trophimus

sick (2 Timothy 4:20), advising Timothy about wine for ailments (1 Timothy 5:23), and the absence of these gifts in later New Testament letters (e.g., Romans 12:6-8; 1 Peter 4:10-11).

9. The sermon contrasts **cessationism** (sign gifts like healings ceased after their purpose was fulfilled) with **continuationism**. Based on the argument, why does the preacher hold a cessationist view specifically for "sign gifts"? How does the purpose of authenticating apostles and the gospel messengers relate to their temporary nature?
10. How do modern claims of healing ministries (e.g., references to Oral Roberts, Kenneth Copeland, or the Francis Chan story) fail the biblical tests of miraculous, instantaneous, and verifiable healings? What concerns does the sermon raise about location (e.g., hospitals in Tulsa) and verifiability?

Application and Personal Response Questions

11. The sermon stresses: "Jesus can heal you... whenever He wants." How should Christians respond to sickness or disability today? Discuss the balance of praying for healing (James 5:14-15) while not neglecting ordinary means like medicine, diet, and exercise.
12. Why does the preacher say spiritual healing from sin is far more important than physical healing? Read Matthew 13:15, 1 Peter 2:24, and Mark 2:16-17. How does Jesus as the "Great Physician" address our deepest need?
13. The sermon notes that Christ may heal physically in this life—or He may not—but He will sanctify through suffering (2 Corinthians 12:7; Romans 5:3-5) and ultimately heal completely in eternity (Revelation 21:4). How does this bring comfort or hope to those currently suffering?
14. For children/youth: The preacher addresses boys and girls directly about Jesus' power to heal and knowing people who died young. How does knowing Jesus can do "whatever He wants, whenever He wants" encourage trust in Him, even when someone isn't healed right away?
15. In light of the sermon's warning against being "duped by fake false healings," how can believers today test claims of miraculous healing or spiritual gifts? What role should Scripture, the church, and discernment play?

SERMON TRANSCRIPT

Well, brothers and sisters in Christ, friends and visitors, we come again to 1

Corinthians 12. And today we are going to spend an entire sermon on this one half, this one verse, verse 9. And specifically, look in your own Bible again, the passage that was just read to you. We are looking at this phrase halfway through verse 9. It says to another gifts of healing by the one spirit. So in 1 Corinthians 12, Paul is not trying to list every single possible spiritual gift that exists, but he lists a few of them to make his broader point. And we are going to get to his broader point at the end of the chapter, especially as it goes into chapter 13 when he says, "And I will show you still a more excellent way." Then he speaks of love. But all these gifts, you might have some of these gifts, but you are not loving. If you do not have love, you are nothing. It does not matter. So, I am going to remind you that he is not giving us an extensive list of spiritual gifts, but he is bringing up certain gifts for his main point. But the age that we live in, we have to slow down and actually look at each one of these gifts listed. And we are going to spend an entire sermon on this. The spiritual gifts of healings. Both of those words are plural in the Greek. Gifts is plural there. Healings is plural there. It is not just the spiritual gift of healing. Paul's just speaking, brother. There is a bunch of different gifts of healings that existed in the first century church. But we are spending an entire sermon on this for at least three reasons. Hear me at the outset. We are spending an entire sermon on the spiritual gifts of healings because disease is the number one physical problem in the world and causes the most amount of suffering. Physical ailments, sickness, disease, and all the things that that could go along with it. As we see people being healed from certain things, there are people who are blind. There are people who are deaf. There are people who are paralyzed. Uh there are people with just continuing problems. There is cancer. There is just a too many problems to even list diseases and ailments and everyone is affected by them in one way or another. So, we are spending an entire sermon on that because this is a real issue and we do not just want to blow by it. But secondly, we are spending an entire sermon on this because this or these spiritual gifts that are mentioned right here in the second half of verse 9 are perhaps the most widely misunderstood and misapplied spiritual gifts in all of the Bible. Especially for you and I who live in Muskogee, Oklahoma and it is a shadow of Tulsa, Oklahoma. And if you are not aware, Tulsa, Oklahoma is like the epicenter of the entire world for charismania nonsense. There are multiple mega churches in Tulsa that have schools. People move to Tulsa from all over the world to study at these charismaniac schools and learn how to do healing ministries and things like that. I mean, Oral Roberts University, a fine university, know some of you even went there. Fine university as far as it goes. But that university exists and is named after a faith healer, Oral Roberts, who claimed hundreds and hundreds of healings that he had performed on people. We have the maybe center even up in Tulsa today, which is a part of Oral Roberts University because of Oral Roberts and his faith healing ministry. And then we have guys like Kenneth Copeland who does not live in Tulsa anymore. He lives in Texas, but Kenneth Copeland followed after Oral Roberts. And Copeland is one of the biggest quote unquote faith healers today. And he got his start because he was a pilot. And he actually flew for Oral Roberts.

And he saw how much money Oral Roberts made through his fake faith healing ministry. And Kenneth Copeland is like, "This is going to be even better than being a pilot. So we live in the shadow of Tulsa, Oklahoma and just other people in the world know it is like oh wow you live near Tulsa if they know about the charismaniac movement. So we have to really take our time going through especially the spiritual gifts that are misunderstood and misapplied so we can think and act biblically and so we can most honor the Lord Jesus and honor God the Holy Spirit who gives spiritual gifts for specific purposes. So that is one of the reasons because it is so widely misunderstood and misapplied. We need to know the truth. But the third reason we are spending a whole week on this is because, hear me, everyone. Look at me. Jesus can heal you. Jesus can physically heal you. Jesus can physically heal anyone whenever he wants. And you and I should even pray for and seek that. So do not hear anything that I am saying today. Though I will show you from the scripture that the spiritual gifts of healings, those gifts existed in the first century and they have ceased. No one has the spiritual gifts of healings today. I will make that case and that is what the Bible teaches. But do not think that in any way I am saying Jesus does not still heal today or that we should not seek that or pray for that or desire that you should. Jesus can heal you. Boys and girls, look up here at me. we are we are looking at one half of one verse in 1 Corinthians 12. it is where Paul talks about the spiritual gifts of healings of healing somebody who is maybe like paralyzed, their legs does not work and they get healed. Or they have cancer, then they are healed. Or somebody like Jesus does, somebody is blind and Jesus heals him and he can see. Somebody's deaf and cannot speak correctly and Jesus heals him and he can hear and start speaking correctly. that is what we are talking about. The gifts of healings are like Peter. Peter and John were walking into the temple one day and there was a guy who had been paralyzed from his birth. He was born and he could not walk. And people brought him every day outside the temple and he would sit there and he could not work. He could not get any money. So he would ask for people to give him money. And Peter and John, two of the apostles of Jesus, did not have any money, but Peter said, "I does not have any silver or gold, but what I have I give unto you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." And this guy had been paralyzed from birth stood up and started walking and started jumping. that is what we are talking about today. The spiritual gifts of healings and that did exist in the first century. But boys and girls, it is this is a big issue because there are a lot of people who are sick right now or who have certain disabilities that Jesus can heal. Boys and girls, have you ever known someone who died, but not from just growing really old, but something happened to them and they died at a younger age than like what our grandparents or great-grandparents would be. Have you known someone who has died from a younger at a younger age? All of you can probably think of that. So, it is a big issue to talk about being able to be healed and everybody is affected by sickness and disease in some sense. But boys and girls, look up here. There are a lot of people who hear that about Jesus can heal you and the spiritual gifts of healings and they just get it really wrong. And they

wrongly teach that there are still people today who can walk around and touch you if you are sick and you are going to get healed. There are people who teach that. And so we have to spend a lot of time trying to rightly understand what the Bible says about this issue. But boys and girls, you need to know children, Jesus can heal you and he can heal anybody else whenever he wants. So to another gifts of healings by the one spirit. Well, we have to actually zoom out and not just understand that verse. I think we get that. that is pretty easy to understand what he is saying. We have to zoom out and look at what the whole of scripture says about this issue. So here is the doctrine that I set before you for this sermon. Jesus still heals people today both spiritually and physically even though the spiritual gifts of healings have ceased. Jesus still heals people today both spiritually and physically even though the spiritual gifts of healings have ceased. So, I have got six main truths that I need to point out to you. And this is hopefully helping us just have a big overview understanding of how to think about healing and healings, spiritual gifts, Jesus doing it, the apostles doing it, all of that. So hopefully this will be a good a doctrine of healing almost and how to properly understand it. So, here is the first thing that you and I need to make sure that we are very clear on. Jesus healed during his earthly ministry. Jesus healed people during his earthly ministry. Just listen to this one passage from Matthew 4:23 and 24. And Jesus went through all Galilee teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. Healing every disease and every affliction among the people. the the distinction between disease and affliction would be disease in our in our case we would say well disease cancer affliction blindness and in the same way there some people had an actual sickness and then some people had what we call a disability and he not only was healing a disability or something he is also healing actual diseases and so that is the whole every disease and every affliction among the people. that is Matthew 4:23. And then in verse 24, it says, "So his fame spread throughout all Syria. And they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures and paralytics, and he healed them." So Jesus healed during his earthly ministry. But here is an important distinction to make, especially as we are looking at 1 Corinthians 12:9, and it is talking about the spiritual gifts of healings. You need to make sure that you do not wrongly think that Jesus healing people in his earthly ministry was him having the spiritual gifts of healings. Not the same thing. When the apostles or those closely associated with them healed people, it was because they had the spiritual gifts of healings. When Jesus healed someone, it is because he is God. Period. Jesus did not have a spiritual gift by which he healed people. And that may seem to you like, okay, yeah, that makes total sense. Why would anyone say the opposite? Well, I do not know. They say the opposite of the truth a lot of the times, but I have heard many people say Jesus, they in fact said this, I think Jesus had every one of the spiritual gifts. it is like, and I probably believed that for a time because I heard somebody say that. I was like, well, that sounds right. I mean, like the spiritual gifts are like given by the spirit to equip us to do as

much good as possible for other people. So someone is like, I think Jesus had every one of the spiritual gifts. Like no, Jesus did not have any of the spiritual gifts in this sense because Jesus is the God man. He does not need the Holy Spirit to give him a spiritual gift to heal someone. He heals someone because he is God by his own divine nature. This is the consistent position of Orthodox Christianity as well. This is not a not something that is like I do not know what the opinion is. This is the clear opinion. Even Calvin says Jesus is God. How clearly and transparently does this appear in his miracles? I admit that similar and equal miracles were performed by the prophets and apostles. But there is this very essential difference that they the prophets and apostles dispensed the gifts of God as his ministers. Whereas Jesus exerted his own inherent might. Jesus's God can heal somebody. He did not have the spiritual gifts of healings, not like mere men do. So boys and girls, you need to know Jesus healed people during his earthly ministry. While Jesus was on the earth, those three years of his earthly ministry, he healed people. He could touch them and heal them. Or sometimes he would just speak and they would be healed. Those are the two ways that we see him doing it in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Sometimes he would touch them or they would touch him, they would be healed or sometimes he would just speak a word and they would be healed. And Jesus did that not because he had a spiritual gift. Jesus did that because he is God and he can do whatever he wants, whenever he wants to whoever he wants. Children, look up here. Jesus can do whatever he wants, whenever he wants to whoever he wants. Okay? Always. There is no one who can stop Jesus from doing whatever he wants to do whenever he wants to do it. And that is awesome. that is awesome for us who trust in Christ for salvation and who submit to him as our king because our king can do whatever he wants whenever he wants to whoever he wants. Praise God how powerful Christ is. So Jesus healed during his earthly ministry. Get that down. But it is not the same thing as the spiritual gifts of healings. But secondly, the second thing we need to understand when dealing with healing in general and thinking about it in the scripture, you need to know that the apostles and some of those closely associated with them had gifts of healings during their early ministries.

All of that is very important. The apostles and some of those closely associated with them had gifts of healings during their early ministries. Not even during their entire earthly ministry, but during their early ministries. So you see this for example in the passage that I have already referenced to you in Acts 3 1-10. Peter and John are going to the temple. there is a man paralyzed from birth. The King James, silver and gold have I not, but what I have I give unto thee. Rise. And the man stands up and walks. And it says he starts leaping for joy. And everybody around notices who the guy is that has been paralyzed from birth. it is like that is John who has like always laying right here. John is jumping. So everyone realizes what had happened, but it was not like uh one of their legs was a little shorter than the other and he stretched out the leg. it is like a guy who has never walked in his life started jumping and running through the temple and everyone went, "Oh wow,

we better listen to what these guys have to say because it seems like God is at work in them and we need to listen." All he did was stare at him and say, "Rise up and walk." What was that? was the spiritual gifts of healings and it was exercised through them. And so the apostles and those closely associated with them had these gifts during their early ministries. This is what it says in Acts 5 12-16. This is one of the summary statements in the book of Acts. The book of Acts is the historical count of the first 30 years of Christianity like after the ascension of Christ. And so it is historical narrative and then Luke who wrote it will put in a summary few verses or a paragraph summarizing a whole period. And this is what he says. Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles.

And they were all together in Solomon's portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. And more than ever, believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed through the hands of the apostles. A lot of healings, not just like Acts chapter 3, but a lot. They brought them all in and they were all healed. So that is that is Peter and the other apostles in Jerusalem at that time. family sale Peter and John in Acts 3. And then you fast forward to Acts chapter 14. You even see Paul. Acts 14 8-11. Now at Lystra, there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. that is what God says through Luke. And I would remind you, Luke is a physician. Luke's a doctor. And Luke is very specific when he records certain healings, showing that this is eyewitness testimony. And some of the parts of Acts are not just him getting other people's eyewitness testimony, but Luke was actually with Paul for some of this. And he says this, there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul speaking and Paul looking intently at him, seeing that he had faith to be made well, said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And the man sprang up and began walking. When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men." Then a whole other problem is created because Paul or God heals somebody through Paul and then they think he is a demigod. No. But Paul exercises that gift. Peter does. Peter and John do. So the apostles and those closely associated with them had gifts of healings during their early ministries. That'll make more sense as we keep going. You need to know thirdly, not only did Jesus heal the apostles and those associated with them healed, you need to know that healings were three things. This is very crucial. They were miraculous, instantaneous, and verifiable.

Miraculous. there is no natural explanation for any of it.

instantaneous. It happened right then and it was verifiable. Everyone could see that it actually did happen. When John, who has been paralyzed from birth, and you've only ever seen lay down his entire life, stands up, starts running and leaping. Like, that is pretty verifiable, is not it? When another guy who has been blind his whole life all of a sudden looks and can tell you the color of things or can tell you what things look like or can see you waving, go, "Oh, wow. He really can see." When you can no longer tell jokes behind the deaf man's back, but he can actually hear you now and says, "Hey." Pretty verifiable. Healings were miraculous. there is no natural explanation for them. They were instantaneous. It was not, "you are healed. you are healed. you are healed." Like many of the fake faith healers today. And then people say, "Yeah, I think I am healed from my cancer." And then they die 6 months later. All the while leaving there saying, "I have been healed." And the faith healer saying, "I have healed them." And then they die. No, none of that. it is miraculous, instantaneous, and verifiable. Jesus healed a man with a withered hand. For example, in Matthew 12:13, Jesus said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And the man stretched it out, and it was restored healthy like the other,

miraculous, instantaneous, verifiable. Jesus said to a paralytic, "I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all so that they were all amazed and glorified God saying, "We never saw anything like this." Mark 2: 11-2. To an invalid Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. John 5:8-9.

To a blind man, uh Jesus made mud out of spit and dirt and anointed the man's eyes,

spits on the ground, picks it up, makes mud out of it, and rubs it on the blind man's eyes. This is what it says in Mark, or forgive me, in John 9:7. And Jesus said to him, "Go wash in the pool of Silom," which means scent. Siloam means scent. So he went and washed and came back seeing to a deaf man with a speech impediment. Jesus put his fingers into his ears and after spitting touched the man's tongue and looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." and his ears were opened and his tongue was released. Jesus healed a leper. Behold, a leper came to Jesus and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will be clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. And Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded for a proof to them." Jesus says, "Go and get your healing verified by the priest so that you can be declared clean and everyone will know that you are actually clean." If you know anything about the faith healers are today or the people who purport to have the gift of healing, none of it is ever verifiable intentionally. So because it is fake. it is not

verifiable. it is always symptoms. If it is an internal type disease, it is somebody's symptoms might get better. But a lot of that is just through the power of suggestion.

You do not see actual healings. You do not see people actually who are crippled from birth and it is verifiable and then they get up and walk and they keep walking. You do not see that. You do not see people with the gifts who say they have the gifts of healings going to hospitals. Why?

Just think if you had the spiritual gift of healing like Jesus did or like Jesus exercised and like the apostles did with that gift. What would you do with it? I think you would spend as much time as you could at the hospital. Maybe start with the children's hospital. But why do we have Tulsa, Oklahoma, who has filled with these people who profess to be healers and faith healers and we have to go to the Tulsa hospital so frequently for illnesses and diseases? I mean, how many hospitals are there in Tulsa? Have you been to St. Francis, Maine? it is like a city.

Where are the faith healers?

Their purported healings are not miraculous. they are not instantaneous and they are not verifiable. it is a charade. Jesus's were all miraculous, instantaneous, and verifiable. And so were the apostles. When Peter speaks to the paralyzed man who has never walked in his life and everyone knows it and he stands up running and jumping, that is verifiable. Boys and girls, look up here at me. When we are talking about healings and talking even about the spiritual gift of healings like the apostles and those who were friends with the apostles had in the first century, we are talking about things that happened that were miraculous. You could not explain it in any other way other than whoa, Jesus just healed this person. there is no explanation other than that. And it happened instantly. Boom. Someone was deaf and then all of a sudden they can hear. Someone was blind and all of a sudden they could see. Someone was paralyzed and all of a sudden they could walk. It was instant. And it was always something you could verify and you did not just have to take somebody's word for it. Like if someone says if someone came and said, "I have terminal cancer and I have been given three months to live." Someone says that to you, can you tell by looking at that person whether or not they really have cancer, like if I said I have cancer right now, could you tell if I did? Probably not, right? What if I come and say that and then a faith healer comes and says, "You've been healed." And then I tell you, I did have cancer, but I just felt it leave and I do not have any cancer. and then, you know, five years later I am still alive. Should you believe that I actually had cancer and then got healed? Or was I just lying to you to make it look like somebody healed me? Like, what should you believe? I do not know what I should believe about it. it is not verifiable. These healings that people say are not miraculous, not instantaneous, not verifiable. And that is what it was like when Jesus healed and when his apostles and those

associated with them healed. So get that straight too and do not be duped by the fake false healings. There you even need to know there are multiple reports of setups I will call them happening all over the world. One most recently was with a man named Francis Chan. Many of you who are my age probably know who Chan is. He wrote a really popular book in like 2008 called Crazy Love. And Chan kind of went off the rails a little bit and started getting into charismania stuff. But then a few years ago he went to I believe it was India on a mission trip and he came back and his testimony of what happened there just saying like you would not believe it. I was believing that Jesus would heal people through me and I just started acting in that and everyone that I touched were healed. said there was there was a kid who came in a wheelchair and they said he had never walked before and I laid my hands on him and he was healed. He got up and walked.

So Chan is telling this story and then a few months later it comes out from a missionary who lives in that same city in India and who has been laboring there. It comes out that there is a group of people who find out someone like Francis Chan or somebody else is coming that has a lot of influence in America or in a wealthier country. They have a big Christian influence. And what they will do is set up people to come to hear this person preach or come to do a faith healing or something like that. And they will pay children and other people to pretend like they have certain diseases or like they are paralyzed. they will pay them to do that so that Chen, for instance, in this case, would come in and lay hands on this kid and think it is a verifiable miracle, but the kid was pretending the whole time and he got paid by someone to do it. You know what that does? it is going to bring Chan and a lot of other people back to the same city. they are gonna say a real outpouring of God the Holy Spirit is happening here in this city in India. we have got to send money there. we have got to get more stuff there. And the people that live there like it is like they are going to dump in a lot of money, a lot of Western help will come and this is going to be great.

So even the things even the things that seem like I mean what do you do that? You just call Francis Chan a liar? I do not think he is a liar. I do not think he is like just actually making it up that some kid's in a wheelchair and he touches him and then he stands up and walks. I do not think he is lying about it. So, what do you do? Well, in that situation, it is like he was lied to and tricked. But people are so desperate to prove something is real that has ceased from operation that they will they will fall prey to anything like that. miraculous, instantaneous, verifiable. that is the third truth. Now the fourth, you need to understand the purpose of Jesus healings and the purpose of the apostles healings. What is the purpose? Boys and girls, look up here at me. Do you know what a sign is for? a sign like just think of a road sign. What does it exist for?

Does the sign exist just for itself? Just so we would go, you know what? that is a great sign. I love that sign. I cannot wait to come back and see that sign. Is that

why it exists? No. It exists to point you to something else, right? Bucees is 572 miles from here. Like, okay. It exists to point you to something else. that is what a sign is for always, right? A sign does not exist just for itself. And so it is with all of the miracles of Jesus and all of the miracles of and the healings especially of Jesus and the apostles. They were signs pointing to something else. The signs or the healings that Jesus performed, they were signs that he is who he claims he is. He is God and he is come to do what he said he is come to do, namely to save us from our sins. And so they exist, the healings existed as signs to point for Jesus to his divinity and the truth of the gospel. that is why if you read through the gospel account of John, John is very selective and he only mentions a few of the healings of the miracles that Jesus does and he calls them all signs. Signs. These are the signs that Jesus did. Listen to this. In John 2:11, the turning of water to wine at a wedding in Cana of Galilee, John says this, the first of his signs Jesus did at Cana in Galilee and manifested his glory, and his disciples believed in him. Now, that was a miracle of nature, not a healing. But the point of all of it is that all these things exist as signs pointing to the fact that Jesus is who he claims to be. He is the God man and he is come to save us from our sins. And this is what John says at the end of his letter or at the end of his gospel account. John 20:30 and 31. Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. Healings were accomplished as signs to verify the me messengers of the gospel. that is the fourth main point for this message that you and I need to understand to have a proper view of healings and the spiritual gifts of healings. Healings were accomplished as signs to verify the messengers of the gospel. So there is Jesus. John even says that very clearly at the end. He did many other things that I did not even write down. in the in my presence. He says, "In the presence of his disciples," and that is him. John's one of them. they are not written in this book. I did not write them all down, but the ones I wrote down are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. If you've read through the gospel accounts enough, you'll remember Jesus saying things like, "does not believe me just because I am saying it. believe me because of what you've seen me do, because of the signs, because of the works that I do. he is like, you cannot believe that I am who I am claiming to be. Just that is the whole point of why I am healing people and performing miracles is so that you would have no excuse and see, whoa, we better listen to him. He must be who he claims to be. So Jesus healed as signs to verify himself as the God man and as a messenger of the gospel. And the apostles are the same way. These spiritual gifts of healings are called what we call sign gifts. Sign gifts. They were a spiritual gift or gifts that existed for a short period of time as the signs of the apostles to verify the messengers of the gospel before the scriptures were completed.

So you have in 2 Corinthians 12:12, listen to this. Paul says, "The signs of a true

apostle were performed among you with utmost patience with signs and wonders and mighty works. Sign gifts, signs of the apostles were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works." 2 Corinthians 12:12. In that letter, Paul has to defend his apostolic ministry because the church at Corinth was being infiltrated by fake apostles, what he hyperbolically calls super apostles.

And he has to defend his own ministry. And he is reminding them, the signs of a true apostle were performed among you. You saw the miraculous healings. You saw the miraculous uh demons being cast out of people. You saw this and it was verified among you that I am a true apostle. Now listen to this in Romans 15:17-20. What was the purpose of these gifts of healings to verify the messengers of the gospel? Romans 15:17-20. In Christ Jesus, then I have reason to be proud of my work for God. For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience by word and deed by the power of signs and wonders by the power of the spirit of God. So that from Jerusalem and all the way around this Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ. And thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation. His whole point is to bring the Gentiles to obedience by word and deed, to bring them to Christ by the power of signs and wonders. Because the miracles that the apostles did, the healings that they accomplished, that God accomplished through them were signs pointing that they are true messengers of the gospel. They were accomplished as signs to verify them. Now you need to also understand that because those were temporary sign gifts that existed for a specific purpose, the apostles and those closely associated with them. They needed to be verified before the scriptures are finished. People are just going around and they are sharing the gospel. And we do not have the perfection of the scriptures in completed form yet. And so in the early church, even at the beginning of their ministry, how are we to know what to believe? Well, look at what God's doing through them. And then those gifts ceased because they were no longer necessary. does not need sign gifts today. They did not even need them like the second half of their ministry. They did disappear. They did cease. Those who act like they still continue today. This is the theological debate between continuationism and cessationism. Cessationism believes that the miraculous sign gifts were for a specific period in order to be signs to verify the messengers of the gospel. Continuationists, those who believe continuationism believe those gifts, all the gifts that are mentioned in the New Testament continue up until this day. They do not think that they are temporary signed gifts. They believe they continue, but they factually do not. And you can verify it by just looking out there. They factually do not. The church for the most part, the majority of the consensus of the church is that these sign gifts do not and have not continued.

They did cease when they were long no longer necessary as signs to verify the

messengers of the gospel. This is why—here are a few examples. The last letter Paul ever wrote, 2 Timothy, he says this. 2 Timothy 4:20 Erastus remained at Corinth and I left Trophimus who was sick at Miletus.

did not we see in Acts 14 that Paul had gifts of healings just healed people? So why does he leave Miletus and leave Trophimus there? Because he is sick. If he has the gift of healing, why not just heal Trophimus so he can go with you? Paul's saying, "I am alone." Uh, Erastus stayed at Corinth and had to leave Trophimus at Miletus because he was sick because the miraculous healings, the sign gifts had already ceased at that point. This is why also in 1 Timothy 5:23, Paul told Timothy to drink a little wine for his frequent ailments. For your frequent sicknesses, drink a little bit of wine, Timothy. If the gifts of healings continued even to that point, why would Paul not heal Trophimus? Why would Paul not say to Timothy, "Find someone in your church who has the spiritual gift of healing for your frequent ailments." And he is like, "Drink a little bit of wine for your frequent ailments." Additionally, you can just read through the book of Acts and see how the gifts of healings just all of a sudden disappear. they are there and then all of a sudden Paul keeps going. missionary journey keeps going, but none of it is there anymore. Like, what happens? You could even just see that throughout the book of Acts, you read it and it just they stop.

Even the latter epistles, the letters that are written, the ones that are written later by the apostles make no mention of gifts of healings. Even when they list spiritual gifts,

1 Corinthians is written somewhere around 55 AD, somewhere around there, perhaps even earlier. And then you've got letters like First Peter and letters like Romans written later, and spiritual gifts are mentioned and healings are not mentioned at all.

Romans 12 6-8. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them. If prophecy in proportion to our faith, if service in our serving, the one who teaches in his teaching, the one who exhorts in his exhortation, the one who contributes in generosity, the one who leads with zeal, the one who does acts of mercy with cheerfulness. Like, why is it not in there? Well, this is just circumstantial evidence, but one of the easiest things is like because it was only in operation for a specific purpose for a short amount of time and it is not anymore. And it was not even at the point of his writing to Romans. So, he is not going to mention the spiritual gifts of healings or supernatural sign gifts. 1 Peter 4:10-11, it is not mentioned there either. So gifts of healings ceased when they were no longer necessary as signs to verify the messengers of the gospel. They fulfilled their purpose and they have ceased. But now our last point, the fifth truth that I point you to—is one that we need to make sure we do not miss. Though the gifts of healings have ceased, the Lord Jesus Christ still heals today. there is a difference

in Jesus healing someone and me or you having the spiritual gifts of healings to where you can go and in a word speak it and somebody's healed or touch them and they are healed. there is a difference. But Jesus still heals today. And here is the most important thing. here is the most important truth of this entire sermon. The Lord Jesus Christ still spiritually heals today. And that is what you need more than anything. It does not matter what sickness you have. It does not matter what disability you have. What you need more than anything is to have your heart, your soul healed by the Lord Jesus Christ through forgiveness of sins and reconciliation to God. In no way do I mean to minimize any of your physical sufferings. But friends, friends, you need to have your sins forgiven by Jesus Christ. Listen to what Christ says in Matthew 13:15. This people's heart has grown dull and with their ears they can barely hear and their eyes they have closed lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn and I would heal them. he is saying what these people, he is even speaking of the Jews in the first century who were are rejecting him even though thousands of them had been healed by him, physically healed by him. and he is looking out at them and how their hearts have grown dull, their ears they cannot hear, their eyes they have closed and he is saying what all of you people that I have physically healed and you've witnessed these physical healings what you really need is a spiritual healing you need to repent and come to me that is what he says would understand with their heart and turn that means repent and I would heal them what Jesus is saying is you need to come to me and trust in me alone for salvation and I will heal you from your sin sickness. that is what you need more than anything. This is what Peter's getting at in First Peter 2:24. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds, you have been healed. for you were straying like sheep but have now returned to the shepherd and overseer of your souls. By his wounds you have been healed. And in that context of what Peter is talking about, he bore our sins in his body on the tree that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. Every one of you who are still outside of Christ, you have a greater sickness than you could ever imagine. And it is your own sin against God.

by which you deserve death, hell, and an eternity of his wrath. You need to be healed from your sins. And the Lord Jesus Christ is that great physician. And listen to this. Mark 2:16-17. The scribes of the Pharisees when they saw that Jesus was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick," what he means is those who are sick need a doctor. I came, he says, not to call the righteous, but sinners. What Jesus means is if you think you are righteous and you does not think you have a sin problem, you does not think you are going to be judged for your sin, I did not come for you then. But if you know that your soul is sick with sin, and you need a savior, you need a king, you need to be reconciled to God. Jesus said, "Oh, I have come for you." You know you are sick with sin and your only hope for

salvation is the Lord Jesus Christ. And Jesus says, "I have come for you. I came not to call the righteous, those who think they are righteous. I came to call those who know they are sinners and need forgiveness and reconciliation." If that is you, praise God. Jesus came for you. If you do not think you need Jesus, then he did not come for you. You do not think you need Jesus to save you? He did not come for you and he won't save you. And why should you care? You do not need him, right? You do not need his forgiveness. You do not need imputed righteousness. Then he did not come to save you. But I think when you say that to people and maybe even to you if that is you, you'd be like offended. He did not come to save me. No, he did not. And he won't save you.

But you do not care, do you? If you do not need him, who cares? But those of us who know we need him and you will admit, "I am sick with sin and I need the great physician." He will forgive every one of your iniquities. he will count you righteous with his righteousness. he will give you eternal life. he will bring you into God's family. he will give you brothers and sisters as fellow Christians to walk with. This is what is most needed, boys and girls. No matter how physically sick you might get, no matter what disease you might get, the worst of all is sin. And Jesus is the great physician who heals our sin sickness through his death and through his resurrection as our savior. You must trust in Jesus alone for your salvation and he will heal you of your sins. You need to join the church. You need to be baptized. You need to walk with the saints all the days of your life for God's glory, for your good, and for others gladness. Jesus still spiritually heals today. Hallelujah. But Jesus also physically heals today. Not just spiritually, but physically. This is why even in James says, "Is anybody sick? Then call for the elders of the church and have them come pray for you." Why?

Why would we call for the elders of the church and let them pray over that person, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord? Why? Because the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick and the Lord will raise him up. Because Jesus still heals people today physically and spiritually. So ask for it, pray for it, trust the Lord. Two things need to be said here to clarify before we before I close. First, pray for healing. Okay? Pray for healing. Second, do not neglect the gifts of modern medicine, a healthy diet, and physical fitness. Pray for healing and do not neglect the gifts of modern medicine, a healthy diet and physical fitness. Our larger catechism in what is required in the sixth commandment even says this is what is required in the sixth commandment. A sober use of meat, drink, medicine, sleep, labor, and recreations.

Even the our Puritan forefathers saw that what is required in taking care of ourselves a sober use of food, of drink, of medicine, of sleep, of labor and recreations. There are many who pray for healing while they neglect their simple duties and they treat their bodies that God has given them like garbage. That must not be you. does not use the fact that Jesus can heal you to abuse what is the

temple of the Holy Spirit. Many Christians would like to be physically healed by Christ, yet they fill their bodies with poisons, or they stuff their bellies in gluttony, or they grow weak and weary through a lack of disciplined effort and exercise, all the while wondering why they are always sick.

Friends, brothers and sisters, we must not treat our bodies in such ways. Do not neglect how important it is what you eat and what you drink. Do not neglect how important it is to exercise. Do not neglect how important it is to be physically fit. Do not neglect how important it is for your health span to be strong. Do not neglect how important it is for your health span to be lean and not fat. Do not neglect the blessing of godly doctors. And does not neglect the tools of modern medicine. None of this has to do with aesthetics, how you look. No one cares. This has to do with not using the fact that we are going to receive new glorified bodies one day or Jesus can heal and then so it is okay to treat my treat my body like garbage. Let me give you one vague example. For years me and my family had prayed for a specific person who had a very specific illness that was just debilitating. They prayed for Jesus to heal them. And you know, they did actually end up getting healed from it. But it was not through a miraculous instantaneous healing. It was when they started actually taking care of the physical body the Lord had given them and looked into what they were eating, what they were drinking, what kind of function they were doing. And now that same exact person does not struggle from that debilitating illness they used to have. Sometimes it is miraculous instantaneous. Sometimes it is you know what Jesus is going to be like actually if you are going to misuse the body that I have given you like that maybe I will just leave you sick until we say "you know what I want to honor the Lord." Pray for healing, but do not neglect modern medicine, a healthy diet, and physical fitness.

Quick things in conclusion. Christ may heal you in this life and he may not. He may and he may not. He healed Peter's mother-in-law who lay ill with a fever and immediately she rose up being healed and started serving other people. So Jesus may heal you in this life and he may not. He may leave you sick. He may leave you sick for his glory like he did with Lazarus. He waited four days to go to Lazarus until Lazarus died. Jesus intentionally stayed longer so that Lazarus would die. Why? For his glory. Because he is going to raise him from the dead. He may heal you. He may leave you sick. But he will certainly sanctify you if you are a Christian through your sickness. If you belong to the Lord Jesus, whatever thorn in the flesh he permits to stab you, he will sanctify you through it. that is why Paul says in second 2 Corinthians 12:7, to keep me from being conceited, prideful, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.

he is going to use even whatever thorn in the flesh he permits to stab you, he will use it to sanctify you and make you more like Jesus. He says in Romans 5:3-5,

"We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." You can take that to the bank through whatever sickness, whatever ailments, whatever disabilities. If you belong to the Lord Jesus Christ, he will sanctify you through that. he will also prepare you for glory through whatever sickness you experience. Paul calls it a light momentary affliction. This light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison. Christ will work all things together for your good, even your sickness, even your ailments, even your disabilities. If you belong to the Lord Jesus Christ, you trust him alone for salvation, you can know that for those who love God, all things work together for good for those who are called according to his purpose. And you need to know this, Christians. He may heal you in this life. He may not. But he will certainly heal you in the life to come. One day there will be no more sickness, no more sadness, no more disease. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. And death shall be no more. Neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore. For the former things have passed away. You will be healed, Christians, in this life or the next.

he will heal every sickness of every believer because this is one of the reasons he died and was raised from the dead. Trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Pray for healing and do not neglect to take care of the body that God has given you. Let's pray.

Our father, we thank you for your word. We ask you to help us to understand it, to have a proper view of the spiritual gifts of healings, why they did exist, why they have now ceased. Help us to see through those who would try to trick us or mislead us. Help us to trust in Christ alone for our salvation, to pray for healing, and to not neglect the ordinary means of health. And help us to be faithful. And we ask for those who are sick that you would heal them.

Those who have disabilities that you would heal them in Jesus name.

Those who are suffering, we ask that you would comfort them. Those who are straying from you, we ask that you would correct them and grant them repentance. those who are striving forward in faith. We ask that you would grant them strength and endurance, save and sanctify. Please receive everything that we do, we continue to do in this worship gathering. Receive it for Christ's sake. it is in his name we pray. Amen.

Christ Jesus will heal every sickness of every believer because this is one of

the reasons He died and was raised! Sometimes Christ heals His people in this life, sometimes He leaves them sick, but always He will heal them in the life to come.

Sometimes Christ heals people in this life, like in Matthew 8. "That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: 'He took our illnesses and bore our diseases'" (Matt. 8:16-18).

Sometimes Christ leaves people sick, like Trophimus in 2 Timothy 4. "I left Trophimus, who was ill, at Miletus" (2 Tim. 4:20).

Always Christ will heal His people in the life to come, like in Revelation 21. "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away" (Rev. 21:4).

Hold up and hold on, believers.