

The Gift of Healings

1 Corinthians 12 7-11d

I. Intro

● Anecdote

- Healings
 - The Bible is a book that is filled with historical accounts of people being healed by the supernatural power of God.
 - As a matter of fact - the Old Testament contains 21 accounts of people being healed.
 - For example - the Lord used the prophet Elisha to heal a leprous soldier named Naaman.
 - And the Lord led Elijah to heal the sick son of an impoverished widow.
 - We also find 51 healings in the New Testament - which includes the Blind Man of Bethsaida...
 - ...and the ten lepers who were miraculously cured of their leprosy.
- Dispensation
 - With all of this in mind - we can rejoice in knowing that the Lord our God is able to heal.
 - And as we consider all of the healings recorded in the Bible - it's important to understand that...
 - ...the Lord used many means and miraculous methods - for curing those who received His healing touch.

- There were those who were healed according to their faith - like the woman who had a flow of blood for 12 years.
- Then there were others - like Lazarus - who were healed - simply because - it was God's sovereign will to heal them.
- And as we consider the healing power of the Lord - we can rejoice in knowing that He is still healing people today.

II. Outline

● Points

- The Gift
 - Here in our time today - - we're going to consider how the God Who saves us from our sins...
 - ...is the same God Who also heals us - according to His perfect will.
 - And as we study the scriptures before us today - we'll begin to see that...
 1. ...the Gift of Healings is Gracious
 2. ...the Gift of Healings is Continuous
 3. ...the Gift of Healings is Glorious
 - With this as our outline - let's open our Bibles to 1st Corinthians chapter 12...
 - ...where we find Paul - presenting a list of spiritual gifts.

III. Gracious

● Set up

- Context

- As we make our way to the 12th chapter of 1st Corinthians - - we should take a moment to put our text - back into it's context.
- It was three weeks ago - when we began our study of the charismatic gifts that Paul presented to the Christians in Corinth.
- And while we began with a focus on the word of wisdom and the word of knowledge...
- ...it was last week when we considered the gift of faith that the Holy Spirit provides to those who need an extra measure of faith.
- Now - here in our text today - we find Paul - adding to this list - the charismatic gift of healings.
- And with this as our focus - we're going to spend our time today - considering this incredible gift.
- Let's pick up our study of 1st Corinthians chapter 12 - look with me beginning there at verse 7 - where Paul declared...

● Text

1Co 12:7 ...the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

1Co 12:8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,

1Co 12:9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,

1Co 12:10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

1Co 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

• Healings

- Here in our text today - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand that...

- ...the Holy Spirit has promised to provide some Christians with the gift of healings.
- That word - healings - found there in verse 9 - was translated from the Greek word - iama...
 - ...which was used of those who are cured - and made whole.
 - And while this Greek word could refer to a medicinal cure - like the Balm of Gilead...
 - ...Paul was using this word in a spiritual sense - as he added this gift of healings to this list of charismatic gifts.
- Medicine
 - Now - listen - there are times when the Lord leads us to use medicinal measures to heal those who are ill.
 - For example - the Holy Spirit led Paul - to direct Timothy to mix a little wine into his water - in order to cure his stomach infirmity.
 - And there are times when the Lord leads us to use therapeutic treatments...
 - ...to provide relief for those who are struggling with sickness.
 - For example - the tree of life which is found in the New Jerusalem will produce leaves...
 - ...which will be used for the healing - or - therapy of the nations.
- Faith Healers
 - In light of these example - it would be wrong for us to think that the gift of healings is the only way that God heals our diseases.
 - The Lord can use physicians and medicines to heal our physical infirmities...

- ...and the Lord can also use psychiatrists and psychotropic drugs to treat a person's mental illnesses.
- And knowing that there are times when the Lord uses these natural methods to provide people with healing...
- ...I encourage every Christian to steer clear of the so-called faith healers...
- ...who are quick to insist that - the gift of healing is the only way way that God heals His people.
- Faith?
- What's even worse is that - the word-faith movement is filled with false teachers...
- ...who have convinced their followers - that the Christian who is struggling with sickness - doesn't have enough faith to be healed.
- And rather than encouraging them to seek help from the medical professionals who could provide them with help...
- ...they engage in extortion - by attempting to convince sick Christians to give more money to their ministry - - as evidence of their faith.
- And it's sad to say that many - MANY believers die - financially broke and filled with shame...
- ...after being duped by the spiritual charlatans who make merchandise of desperate disciples.
- First
- Please trust me when I tell you that the gift of healing isn't secured by those who give their money to the so-called faith healers.

- Proof of my point can be seen in the way that the Holy Spirit used Peter to heal a poor man - at the gate of the temple.
- Let's consider Luke's account of this healing - which is found in the book of Acts.
- Hold your place here in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles to Acts chapter 3...
- ...and as we make our way to the third chapter of Acts - I wanna take a moment to point out that...
- ...this is the first mention of a miraculous healing - happening in the church age.
- Mention
- Now - in order to understand why this is so significant - let's take a moment to consider the law of first mention.
- Just to be clear - the law of first mention is an interpretive principle that helps us to properly study the scriptures.
- This principle suggests that the first mention of a concept should serve as a starting point...
- ...for studying - and developing a cohesive understanding of that subject.
- And as we apply this interpretive principle to the charismatic gift of healings...
- ...the first mention of this gift being used - is found here in Acts chapter 3.
- Healing
- Look with me - beginning there at verse 1 - where Luke tells us that...

Act 3:1 Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.

Act 3:2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple;

Act 3:3 who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms.

Act 3:4 And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us."

Act 3:5 So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.

Act 3:6 Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

Act 3:7 And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

Act 3:8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God.

Act 3:9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God.

- Here in these verses - we learn about the first miraculous healing that happened - after the birth of the church.
- And while it's true that there were countless healings that took place during the Earthly ministry of our Messiah...
- ...it's also true that the healing of the lame man - who was begging at the temple gate...
- ...was the first time the Holy Spirit empowered a born-again believer with the charismatic gift of healing.
- And listen - this wasn't the last time the Holy Spirit poured out the gift of healing - through the apostle Peter.
- More Healings
- With this as our focus - let's flip forward to Acts chapter 5 - where we find Peter - healing the multitudes.

- Let's consider how Luke put it here in the fifth chapter Acts - look with me beginning there at verse 14 - where Luke writes...

Act 5:14 ...believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,

Act 5:15 so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.

Act 5:16 Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

- Here in these verses - we learn about the way in which the Holy Spirit empowered the apostle Peter...
 - ...to pour out the gift of healing on all of the diseased - and demon possessed people who were brought before him.
 - And according to Luke - many people began to believe that the shadow of Peter passing by could heal them.
 - And while I have no way of confirming the healing power of Peter's shadow - - what we can say for sure is that...
 - ...the Holy Spirit was confirming the apostolic ministry of Peter - through the charismatic gift of healing.

● Application

- Gift
 - Not only that - but - we can also be certain that - Peter did NOT receive an offering - before he exercised this gift.
 - Remember - the first person Peter healed - post Pentecost - was a handicap man - who was begging for alms.
 - And what this means is that - the so-called faith healers who lead their followers to plant a financial seed - so that they might be healed...

- ...are leading people astray with their false teachings.
- Christian - listen - the charismatic gift of healing is just that - it's a gift.
 - And what this means is that - it's a gift that is given to those who freely receive it.

• Gift

- Proof of my point can be found back in the text that we're studying today - and so - let's turn back to 1st Corinthians chapter 12.

- Look with me again - beginning there at verse 7 - where we learn that...

1Co 12:7 ...the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

1Co 12:8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,

1Co 12:9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,

- As we take another look at these verses - we must not fail to notice that the gifts of healings - - is a gift.
- That word - gifts - found there in verse 9 - was translated from the Greek word - Charisma.
- And while this word is the basis for our English word - - charismatic - - the word Charisma is derived from the Greek word - Charis.
- And the Greek word - Charis refers to the free gift of God's grace.
 - That being the case - we can rejoice in knowing that the gifts of healings are gracious gifts that are freely given by God.

● Transition

- Points

- Now - this brings us to our second point - because listen...

1. ...the Gift of Healings is not only Gracious...

2. ...but - the Gift of Healings is also Continuous.

- Now - in order to explain what I mean - let's take another look at the text before us today.
- Look with me again - beginning there at verse 7 - where we learn that...

IV. Continuous

● Text

1Co 12:7 ...the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

1Co 12:8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,

1Co 12:9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit

- Spirit
- As we take another look at these verses - we must not fail to notice that...
- ...the Holy Spirit is the One Who provides us with the charismatic gifts of God.
- And according to Paul - the Spirit Who provides us with the word of wisdom - the word of knowledge - and the gift of faith...
- ...is the same Spirit Who provides some believers with the charismatic gifts of healings.
- That being the case - we should take a moment to consider the arguments of those who insist that...

- ...the Holy Spirit is no longer empowering believers - with gifts of healings.
- Cessationists
 - I'm referring to those who espouse the doctrine that is commonly called - Cessationism.
 - And while most cessationists believe that there are times when God still heals those who are sick...
 - ...they also insist that that the signifying gifts - like the gifts of healings - served to authenticate the authority of the Apostles.
 - Now that the apostolic age is over — cessationists insist that the Holy Spirit is no longer using believers...
 - ...to perform signs and wonders - like gifts of healings - miracles - tongues - and the interpretation of tongues.
 - And while I agree that the Holy Spirit used these signifying gifts to authenticate the authority of the Apostles...
 - ...I don't see a Biblical reason to believe that the age of these signifying gifts has ended.
- Continuationist
 - To the contrary - this list of charismatic gifts that Paul presented here in our text today leads me to believe that...
 - ...the Holy Spirit has a plan to continue distributing these gifts to Christians - throughout the entire church age.
 - Proof of my point is found in the fact that the Greek verb which is rendered - distributes - there in verse 11...
 - ...is found in the Present Active Participle form - which helps us to see that...

- ...this distribution of spiritual gifts is currently taking place - and continuously.
 - And since there is nothing in these verses that would indicate a cessation of these signifying gifts...
 - ...then it only stands to reason that the Holy Spirit continues to distribute the gift of healings - as He wills.
- Augustine
 - Further proof of my point can be found in the anecdotal evidence that we find all throughout church history - For example...
 - ...it was back in the 5th century AD - when Augustine documented dozens of miraculous healings - in his book - City of God.
 - His testimony helps us to see that the Holy Spirit was still distributing the gift of healings - hundreds of years after the apostolic age.
 - This included a blind man who's sight was restored - and a women with breast cancer who has healed by a newly baptized believer.
 - Augustine wrote about a new believer who was cured of paralysis - and also of a hernia.
 - And a little boy who was crushed by an oxen drawn a wagon was miraculously revived - completely uninjured.
 - And listen - this is just the shortlist of the healings that Augustine presented in his book.
- AJ Gordon
 - Fast forward to the late 19th century - and we find a Baptist Preacher named AJ Gordon...
 - ...publishing a book titled - The Ministry of Healing - miracles of cure in all ages.

- Gordon not only presents a Testimony from the scriptures - and from Reason...
- ...but - he also presented a long list of examples of the way that the Holy Spirit has continued to distribute the gift of healings.
- This includes the story of a woman with a tumor - whom he anointed with oil - and prayed for healing.
- Shortly thereafter - the tumor rapidly lessened - until all trace of it at length disappeared.
- More
- Gordon also recounted the way in which a group of Pastors in Stockholm Sweden...
- ...accepted their privilege of anointing the sick and praying over them in the name of the Lord.
- As a result of their faith - they experienced many remarkable instances of God's gracious healing.
- Gordon also shared the story of the daughter of an English clergyman - who suffered from severe hip disease...
- ...which was made worse by the varied operations of leeches, blisters, bleedings, and cuttings of the surgeon's knife.
- But then came the day when a brother in Christ prayed for her healing...
- ...and that's when the Holy Spirit took away her pain - and enabled her to walk.
- Anecdote

- Time would fail us to consider all of the documented examples of charismatic healings - that AJ Gordon presented in his book.
- I can also attest to the fact that - the Holy Spirit is still distributing the gift of healings - here in the 21st century.
- I was at a pastors luncheon in Georgetown - when a woman attending that church stopped by to ask for prayer.
 - She was on her way to see her doctor - in order to consider his plan for treating a cancerous growth in her body.
 - And so - we laid hands on her - and we asked the Lord to remove the tumor that was growing within her.
 - And the Lord graciously answered our prayers - by healing her.
 - Her doctor even acknowledged that this was a miraculous healing.
- Elisa
 - I'm also remind of the day when Elisa showed up to church - and informed me that she had been diagnosed with Empty Sella Syndrome.
 - In her case - the ESS was causing endocrine deficiencies which was life-threatening - and so - she was ready to put her things in order.
 - That's when I encouraged her to realize that we serve a God - Who is able to heal the sick.
 - And so - we prayed over her - - and we asked the Lord to heal her of this condition.
 - It was at her next check up - when her doctor was amazed by the miraculous healing that she received.
 - Elisa eventually moved back to Florida - and her doctor encouraged her to receive another MRI...

- ...and once again -there was no sign of the Empty Sella Syndrome.

- Personal

- I also received a gift of healing - shortly after my conversion to Christ.
- Before I became a believer - I spent 10 years of my life - destroying my brain with lots of drugs.
- And by the time I was 25 - - my cognitive abilities had been damaged by the years of drug abuse.
- My ability to read - and comprehend what I was reading was greatly reduced.
- And so I cried out to the Lord - and I asked Him to heal my brain - so that I could study the Bible.
- And when I awoke the next day - my mind was clear - and I was able to study the Bible - all day long.
- I have no doubt that the Lord healed the damage that I had caused through drugs and alcohol.

- Application

- Continuous
- With all of this in mind - I must insist that the cessationist position fails to line up with the Bible - with reason - and with experience.
- I like the way that Reverend A. Bost explained it - when he declared...

“We are, indeed, well aware that, so far from its being possible to prove by scripture, or by experience, that visions and dreams, the gift of miracles, healings and other extraordinary gifts, have absolutely ceased in Christendom since the apostolic times, it is on the contrary proved, both by facts and by scripture, that there may always be these gifts where there is faith, and that they will never be entirely detached from it.”

- As we consider the evidence from scripture - according to the promise that the Holy Spirit will continue to presently pour out this gift...
- ...coupled together with the experience of Christians throughout the entire church age - who have been healed - supernaturally...
- ...it only stands to reason that the Spirit of God is still distributing the gift of healings - according to His promise.
- And this is great news - especially for those of us who are prayerfully hoping to receive the healing touch of the One...
- ...Who died on the cross - so that those who trust in Him - can be healed.

● Transition

• Points

- Now - this brings us to our third and final point - because listen...

1. ...the Gift of Healings is not only Gracious...

2. ...and - the Gift of Healings is not only Continuous...

3. ...but - the Gift of Healings is also Glorious.

- In order to explain what I mean - let's take another look at the text before us today.
- Look with me again - beginning there at verse 7 - where we learn that...

V. Glorious

● Text

1Co 12:7 ...the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

1Co 12:8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,
1Co 12:9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,
1Co 12:10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.
1Co 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

- Works
- Now - as we consider how the gifts of healings are continually distributed by the Holy Spirit...
- ...we must not fail to realize that - every time the Holy Spirit uses a believer - to bring healing to another...
- ...God is ultimately glorified by the supernatural works of the Holy Spirit.
- And just to be clear - I should take a moment to point out that the word - works - found there in the middle of verse 11...
- ...was translated from the Greek word - *energeō* - which is the basis for our English word - energy.
- The original Greek word speaks of efficient and effectual power.
- And in this context - were talking about the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit.
- Do All Heal?
- Now - as we consider the supernatural power that the Holy Spirit uses to distribute the gift of healings...
- ...it's important for us to understand that - this charismatic gift isn't given to every Christian.

- Prior to the day of Pentecost - the Lord Jesus provided His Apostles with the power to heal the sick - and cast out demons.
- Not only that - but - He also sent out seventy-two disciples to heal the sick in every town...
- ...as they announced the kingdom of God was at hand.
- Then - it was after His death - burial - and resurrection - when the Lord Jesus told His disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit.
- And it was on the day of Pentecost - when the Holy Spirit began to distribute the Charismatic gifts that glorify our God.
- Rhetorical
 - With all of this in mind - we should take a moment to ask - - does the Holy Spirit enable every believer to heal the sick.
 - The answer to this question can be found here in 1st Corinthians 12 - - let's skip down to verse 29 - where Paul asked...

1Co 12:29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles?

1Co 12:30 Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?
 - As we consider these rhetorical questions - the obvious answer is NO.
 - Are all apostles? NO - Are all prophets? NO - Are all teachers? NO - Are all workers of miracles? NO...
 - Do all have gifts of healings? NO - - Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? NO.
 - Remember - the Holy Spirit distributes these gifts - individually as He wills.

- And according to His will - He distributes the gift of Healings - to some believers - who glorify God with their obedient faith.
- Are All Healed?
- This brings us to another important important question - and the question is this: does the Holy Spirit heal all believers?
- And the answer is - No - - and Yes - - and while I realize that this might sound like a contradiction...
- ...we should take a moment to consider how the Lord heals every believer - in His timing.
- With this as our focus - hold your place here in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles - to 2nd Corinthians chapter 12.
- You see - it's here in the 12th chapter of 2nd Corinthians - where we learn about the infirmity that Paul was suffering from.
- And while we can't say for sure what sort of infirmity he was enduring...
- ...what we do know is that - the Lord was withholding physical healing from this man who had healed so many.
- Paul
- Let's consider how Paul explained it here in 2nd Corinthians chapter 12 - look with me beginning there at verse 7 - where he declared...

2Co 12:7 ...lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

2Co 12:8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

2Co 12:9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2Co 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - describing the way in which the Lord taught him how to endure the infirmities that he was suffering from.
- And while we can't say for certain what sort of infirmity he was suffering from...
- ...what we do know is that the Lord was withholding the healing that Paul had prayed for.
- And from this - we can see that there are times when the Lord allows us to suffer sickness - while we're here in this world.
- And if this sounds like your situation - then I'm happy to tell you that every believer will eventually be healed - completely.
- The Curse
- In order to prove my point - let's consider how the sacrifice of our Savior Jesus - has reversed the curse.
- Continue holding your place there in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles to the book of Isaiah.
- Let's turn to Isaiah chapter 53 - and as we make our way to the 53rd chapter of Isaiah...
- ...I should take a moment to remind you that - disease - and death entered the world...
- ...after Adam and Eve decided to eat the forbidden fruit - there in the Garden of Eden.
- And what this means is that - every illness - and every disease can be traced back to the original sin.

- Thankfully for us - the cross of Christ Jesus has reversed the curse so that we can all be healed.
- Stripes
- Let's consider how the prophet Isaiah explained it - here in Isaiah 53 - look with me beginning there at verse 1 - where he asked...

Isa 53:1 Who has believed our report?
 And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
 Isa 53:2 For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant,
 And as a root out of dry ground.
 He has no form or comeliness;
 And when we see Him,
 There is no beauty that we should desire Him.
 Isa 53:3 He is despised and rejected by men,
 A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.
 And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him;
 He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.
 Isa 53:4 Surely He has borne our griefs
 And carried our sorrows;
 Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
 Smitten by God, and afflicted.
 Isa 53:5 But He was wounded for our transgressions,
 He was bruised for our iniquities;
 The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
 And by His stripes we are healed.

- Here in these verses - we find the prophet Isaiah - prophetically pointing to the substitutionary sacrifice of our Savior - Jesus.
- Proof of my point can be found in the Peter's first epistle - where the apostle Peter assured us that Jesus fulfilled this prophecy.
- And as we consider the way in which the Lord Jesus was wounded for our transgressions - bruised for our iniquities...
- ...we can rejoice in knowing that those who trust in Him - will be healed by the stripes of His sacrifice.

- And in this way - Christ Jesus sets every Christian free from the affects of the fall.

- Victory

- Let's consider how Paul explained it - in 1st Corinthians chapter 15 - it's beginning at verse 50 - where he declared...

1Co 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

1Co 15:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—

1Co 15:52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1Co 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

1Co 15:54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

- Christian - listen - the flesh and blood of these fallen bodies - canNOT inherit the kingdom of God...
- ...and the reason why is because - the corruption of disease and death canNOT inherit the incorruption of heaven.
- Thankfully for those who trust in Jesus - - there's coming a day when our bodies will be glorified...
- ...according to the healing that happens in the resurrection.
- And it's at that point in time when we will enter into the glorious state of eternal salvation.
- Glorified

- Let's consider how the apostle John explained it - in 1st John chapter 3 - it's beginning at verse 1 - where he declared...

1Jo 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

1Jo 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

- We don't really know what our glorified state will be like - - but what we do know is that we will be like Jesus.
 - And seeing how Jesus has conquered disease - and death - then - we can rejoice in knowing that...
 - ...the resurrected body of the believer will be forever free from every infirmity - according to the victory that we have in Christ Jesus.
 - Remember - it's by the stripes of our Savior's sacrifice that those who trust in Him...
 - ...will receive the healing that happens - we we receive our glorified body - which will forever be free from the effects of the fall.
- New
 - John confirmed this in the last chapter of the Bible - it's Revelation chapter 21 - beginning at verse 4 - where we learn that...

Rev 21:4 "God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Rev 21:5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

- According to John - those who trust in Jesus Christ - will eventually enter the New Jerusalem...

- ...where those who have received their glorified bodies - - will forever be free from every infirmity.
- And while it's true that the born again believer becomes a new creation in Christ Jesus - at the moment of their conversion...
- ...it's also true that the transformation of our bodies won't be complete - until the day of our resurrection...
- ...when the corruption of this creation is restored to the glorious state of sinless perfection.

● Application

- Salvation
- With all of this in mind - we should take a moment to consider the instructions that James presented in his epistle.
- It's James chapter 5 - beginning at verse 13 - where he asked...

Jas 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.

Jas 5:14 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.

Jas 5:15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

- So - according to James - those who are sick should ask the elders of the church to pray for them.
- That's right - those who are sick haven't been called to attend a healing ministry - where so-called faith healers are quick to take up a collection.
- No - instead - the sick Christian has been directed to receive prayer from the leaders of their church.

- And according to these instructions - those who are praying for the sick should anoint them with oil...
- ...and that's interesting - because - anointing oil is an old testament symbol of the Holy Spirit.
- Saved
 - Those who are sick should follow these instructions - because - this is the prescription for the how the Holy Spirit heals in the church age.
 - We should ask the leaders of the church to anoint our heads with oil - as they pray for the gift of healing to be poured out.
 - And according to James - the prayer of faith will save the sick - as the Lord raises them up - on the day of their resurrection.
 - And while it's possible that the Lord will provide temporary healing while we're here in this world...
 - ...the ultimate healing will take place on the day when we receive our glorified bodies - according to the glorious plan of the Lord.

VI. Conclusion

● Wrap up

- Points
 - Now - as we begin to wrap up this study - I wanna take a moment to remind you that...
 1. ...the Gift of Healings is a Gracious gift of God...
 - ...and as such - those who are sick can freely receive the healing touch of the Lord.
 2. ...the Gift of Healings is also a Continuous gift that the Holy Spirit is distributing - presently.

- ...that being the case - those who are sick can rejoice in knowing that God is still healing people today.
3. ...Finally - the Gift of Healings is a Glorious gift - which results in the glorification of those who trust in Jesus.
- ...and whether we're talking about the healing that happens here in this world - or the healing that happens in the resurrection...
 - ...we can rejoice in knowing that - God is glorified by the gift of healings.
 - And it's for this reason that I encourage every believer to prayerfully seek the benefits of this charismatic gift of healings.