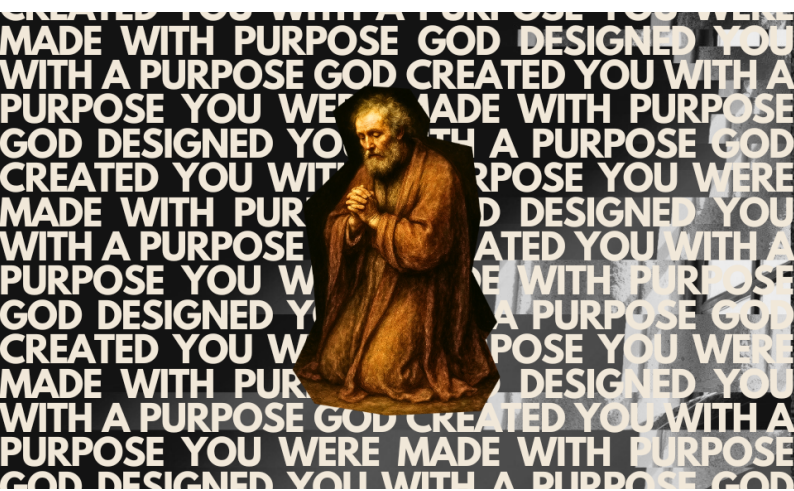




the spiritual gifts

Small Group Guide: **The Spiritual Gifts, Week 8 part 1**

Key Takeaways:

1. The gifts of healings are not incompatible with modern medicine.
2. Scripture approves of and promotes medical treatment.
3. The gifts of healings are plural, referring to different anointings for different ailments.
4. Jesus had all the gifts of healings because He had the Spirit without measure.

Discussion Questions:

1. What misconceptions about divine healing and medical treatment have you encountered? How does this sermon challenge those ideas?
2. Pastor Allen mentions Proverbs 17:22 and Ezekiel 47:12. How do these verses support the idea that medicine is good? Can you think of other biblical examples that support medical treatment?

3. Discuss the definition provided for the gifts of healings: "anointings from God to heal a particular sickness or ailment." How does this definition change your understanding of this spiritual gift?
4. Why do you think it's important that both "gifts" and "healings" are plural in the original Greek text? How does this impact our understanding of how God works through healing?
5. The sermon mentions R.W. Schambach's specific anointing for ear problems. Have you ever witnessed or experienced a particular healing anointing? Share your experiences.
6. How does understanding that we have the Spirit "with measure" (as opposed to Jesus having it "without measure") impact your view of spiritual gifts and your own abilities?

Practical Application:

1. This week, when you pray for healing (for yourself or others), also consider what practical medical steps might be appropriate. Integrate both prayer and medical care in your approach to health.
2. Reflect on any areas where you might have been skeptical about either divine healing or medical treatment. How can you develop a more balanced perspective?
3. If you or someone you know has a particular gifting in healing, consider how you might steward that gift responsibly within your church community.
4. Study more about the various healing accounts in the Bible. Look for instances where natural remedies were

used alongside divine intervention.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for both the gifts of healings and the advancements in medical science. Ask for wisdom in seeking healing and for openness to how God might work in various ways.

5-Day Devotional

Day 1: The Compatibility of Faith and Medicine

Reading: Proverbs 17:22, Ezekiel 47:12

Devotional: Today's readings remind us that God's wisdom encompasses both the spiritual and the physical. Proverbs tells us that "a merry heart does good, like medicine," while Ezekiel's vision includes trees with leaves for healing. These passages challenge the false dichotomy between faith and medicine. As we reflect on this, let's consider how God's healing power can work through both miraculous intervention and medical science. Have you ever felt conflicted about seeking medical help while also praying for healing? Remember that God is the ultimate source of all healing, whether it comes through prayer or through the skills He has given to medical professionals. Today, thank God for His multifaceted approach to our well-being. Pray for wisdom to embrace both faith and responsible medical care in your life.

Day 2: The Power of Conditional Prophecy

Reading: 2 Kings 20:1-7

Devotional: The story of Hezekiah's healing demonstrates the power of prayer to change outcomes, even when a situation seems hopeless. Initially, Isaiah prophesied Hezekiah's death, but after Hezekiah's fervent prayer, God extended his life by 15 years. This passage reveals the dynamic nature of our relationship with God. While He is sovereign, He also responds to our prayers and actions. It's a beautiful reminder that our choices and petitions matter to God. Reflect on a time when you felt a situation was hopeless. Did you turn to God in prayer? How did the outcome unfold? Today, bring your seemingly impossible situations to God, remembering that He can change circumstances in ways we can't imagine.

Day 3: The Shepherd's Heart

Reading: Ezekiel 34:1-6

Devotional: Ezekiel's prophecy uses the analogy of shepherding to describe spiritual leadership. A good shepherd tends to the sick, binds up the injured, and seeks the lost. This passage not only describes the role of spiritual leaders but also reflects God's own heart toward His people. As you read this, consider both how you are being shepherded and how you might shepherd others. Are there areas in your life where you need healing or guidance? How can you extend care to those around you who are hurting or lost? Today, pray for your spiritual leaders, that they would have the wisdom and compassion to care for God's flock. Also, ask God to show you opportunities to extend His shepherding love to others in your sphere of influence.

Day 4: The Gifts of Healings

Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:8-9

Devotional: Paul's discussion of spiritual gifts includes the intriguing phrase "gifts of healings." This plural form suggests that God's healing power manifests in diverse ways for different ailments. It's a reminder of the richness and complexity of God's restorative work in our lives. As you ponder this, consider the various ways you've experienced or witnessed God's healing – physical, emotional, spiritual, or relational. Have you ever felt a special anointing or calling to pray for healing in a particular area? Today, thank God for His healing power in all its forms. Pray for sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's leading, that you might be a channel of God's healing grace in whatever way He chooses to work through you.

Day 5: The Fullness of the Spirit

Reading: John 3:34, Mark 7:37

Devotional: These passages highlight the unique relationship Jesus had with the Holy Spirit, possessing the Spirit "without limit." While we may not have the same measure of the Spirit, we are still called to be filled with the Spirit and to manifest His power in our lives. Reflect on the areas where you see the Spirit working in your life. What gifts or callings has He given you? How can you more fully yield to His influence and power? Today, pray for a greater infilling of the Holy Spirit in your life. Ask God to help you recognize and use the gifts He has given you for His glory and the benefit of others. Remember, while we may not "do all things well" like Jesus, we can excel in the specific areas where God has gifted us.