

CLOTHED WITH POWER 9

Gifts of the Spirit 4: Power Gifts

A. Working of Miracles = DIVINE INTERVENTION IN THE NORMAL COURSE OF NATURE, TRANSCENDING NATURAL LAWS.

→ *Have you ever witnessed what you would describe as a 'miracle?' Why do you think God performs miracles?*

B. Special Faith = A PORTION OF SPECIAL FAITH TO RECEIVE MIRACULOUS PROVISION.

→ *What is it that distinguishes this gift from 'run-of-the-mill' strong faith? In what sort of scenarios do you think people need this gift?*

C. Gifts of Healings = SUPERNATURAL HEALING OF DISEASES & ILLNESSES.

→ *Have you ever had the opportunity to pray for someone for healing? How did it go?*

→ *What do you think would happen in the church if we saw more people physically healed? How do you think we get there?*

→ *Which is your favourite amongst Jesus' healing miracles? Read the text & pick out the specific things we can learn about healing from that account.*

"If we're honest, there's fair bit we DON'T understand about healing. But there's also plenty we DO." Discuss!

What are your frustrations or confusions? If you're honest, which holds greater weight or influence in your thinking, your past experiences / disappointments or the Word of God? Which should it be? How might you tilt that balance?

What DO We Know about HEALING?

1. There are numerous biblical PROMISES of healing.

→ *Can you quote any of these?*

2. There are numerous biblical EXAMPLES & PRECEDENTS of healing.

→ *Any idea how many cases of healing there are in the Bible?*

3. Jesus explicitly said He came to demonstrate the FATHER'S HEART & make known heaven's WILL (John 5:19-20; Luke 4:18-19; Acts 10:38).

→ *In which case, what is the Father's heart & what is heaven's will?*

4. We have been given a clear MANDATE to heal the sick (Matt 10:8).

→ *Any other verses that touch on this?*

5. There is power in the NAME of Jesus (Jn 14:12-14, 16:23-24, Phil 2:9-11).

→ *How should Phil 2:9-11 relate to our theology of healing and/or our prayers for healing?*

6. Faith + power are released through the LAYING ON OF HANDS & ANOINTING with OIL (Mark 16:17-18, James 5:14-16).

→ *Why the laying on of hands? Why anointing with oil?*

7. We are told that UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS the power of God is PRESENT to heal the sick (Luke 5:17, Acts 5:15, Isa 10:27).

→ *What do you think those conditions might be? (We'll be covering that next Sunday)*

8. There are supernatural healing GIFTS, as the Spirit wills (1 Cor 12:10).

9. There are biblical & historical characters who seem to carry a HEALING ANOINTING above & beyond.

→ *Who in the Bible carried such a gift? Anyone in recent church history? Have you ever met anyone with what we might call a 'healing anointing?'*

10. These SIGNS shall FOLLOW those who BELIEVE (Mark 16:17-18).

→ *Why are they called 'signs?' Who should they be following and what does it mean to say signs are 'following?'*

11. God CONFIRMS the WORD with signs & wonders following (Mark 16:20).

→ *What is the place of the Word of God in all of this? Should we expect healing to increase where the word of healing is preached?*

12. There's something about the INITIATION of the SPIRIT & our BOLD OBEDIENCE that opens the door to miracles.

→ *What & how does He initiate? Why is our obedience crucial? How bold are you? Can you remember a time when you were especially bold?*

13. There are a few factors that HINDER healing from taking place: UNBELIEF, UNFORGIVENESS & UNCONFESED SIN.

→ *Why are these factors hindrances? Are there any other factors that might also essentially block or restrict God's healing power?*

Quick ANSWERS to 3 Big QUESTIONS

i) Whose FAULT is it when it doesn't happen?

* We always minister with a spirit of GRACE.

* Only the ENEMY gets BLAMED around here.

→ *Who do you blame? Are you ever tempted to blame God? Should you? Have you ever been blamed? Have you ever blamed yourself?*

ii) What do we do if people DON'T get healed?

* We PICK them up and PRAY for them AGAIN.

→ *How many times should we pray? Under what conditions should we stop?*

iii) What should be our response when people 'Die BEFORE THEIR TIME?'

* We get GRUMPY with the DEVIL & press in STRONGER next time.

* We're in a spiritual BATTLE & we're all ENLISTED for the fight.