

Healing: Part Two Frequently Asked Questions

I. What is unbelief?

- A. Unbelief is the main reason we do not see more healings (Mark 6:1-6; Mt. 13:58).
- B. Unbelief is doubting God's power, wisdom or goodness.

II. What is faith?

- A. Faith is confidence in Jesus to do what he said he would do.
- B. His word offers us this promise, "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (Heb. 4:16)
- C. Every time we come to him with confidence, Jesus promises to give us mercy and grace. This mercy and grace may come in the form of a healing or a deliverance from a crisis, or it may come in the form of power to endure an illness or crisis. Either way, he promises to give us mercy and grace.
- D. Faith for healing:
 1. Is not psychological certainty that we will be healed. Psychological certainty is a gift from God.
 2. Is confidence in Jesus' ability to heal (Mt. 9:28).
 3. Acknowledges that our prayer for healing is a request. The leper said to Jesus, "Lord if you *are willing*, you can make me clean" (Mt. 8:2). This is where we put our confidence in his wisdom and goodness.

III. Does the cross guarantee healing to everyone in this life?

- A. "...and by his wounds we are healed" (Isa. 53:5; quoted by Matthew after Jesus healed many people, Mt. 8:17).
- B. Not just healing, but everything good thing in life comes to us through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross (Rom. 8:31-39).
- C. Isa. 53:5 means that all healing comes through the cross and that everyone in God's family will ultimately be healed, but it does not promise healing to every family member in this life.
- D. There is a scriptural tension here. As far as I know, everyone who asked Jesus for healing in the Gospels received it. Yet Paul had to leave his companion Trophimus sick at Miletus (2 Tim. 4:20). Nor could Paul get Timothy healed of his stomach problems and *frequent illnesses* (1 Tim. 5:23). However, Paul does not attribute the lack of healing to sin or unbelief.

IV. How much faith does it take to get healed?

- A. "I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you" (Mt. 17:20).
- B. "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief" (Mark 9:24).

V. How do we cultivate our faith?

- A. God gives different measures of faith to his children (Rom. 12:3).
- B. Our faith is capable of growing (2 Cor. 10:15; 2 Thes. 1:3).
- C. Remembering God's faithfulness in the past helps our faith in the present (Deut. 8:2-5).
- D. Being with Jesus, filling our heart with his word, and focusing on his greatness rather than our problems (Heb. 12:2) all help to strengthen our faith. Another way to say this is to cultivate the character that will allow us to bear great power without being corrupted by that power. King Saul started out well, but was corrupted by the power of his office. Even Paul needed a demon to keep him from exalting himself (2 Cor. 12:7-10). Still another way to say this is, "What good is all the power in the world if it does not promote friendship with Jesus?" (1 Cor. 13:1-3)
 - 1. **Heb. 12:1-4 Focus on Jesus**
 - 2. **Heb. 12:5-13 Make friends with our pain**
- E. Pray for a greater gift of healing and miracles. Tell God the kind of healings you want to see (James 4:2). **Reminder: prayer for power is also a prayer for pain (2 Cor. 12:7-10)**
- F. Spending time with believing believers (Prov. 13:20).
- G. The thing that drives us to other believers and to cling to Jesus, more than anything else is pain: Ro. 5:1-5; 1Pet. 1:6-9; James 1:2-8.

Healing: Part Three The Gift of Healing

VI. The nature of spiritual gifts

- A. Spiritual gifts are not human talents, but rather supernatural empowerments of grace to glorify God by serving others (1 Peter 4:10-11).
- B. The Bible does not distinguish between "supernatural" spiritual gifts and "natural" spiritual gifts. The gift of encouraging (Ro. 12:8) is just as supernatural as the gift of healing (1 Cor. 12:9).
- C. Spiritual gifts vary in power according to the grace given us, the measure of our faith, and the maturity of the gift (Ro. 12:6).
 - 1. This means it would be a mistake to judge the *reality* of someone's gift by insisting that every gift has to look like the greatest biblical example of that gift.
 - 2. No one can teach like Jesus, but that does not mean there is no real gift of teaching today.

- D. Spiritual gifts are given, not awarded for merit (1 Cor. 12:11). Sometimes God gives gifts to people who do not cultivate the character to bear those gifts, like Samson (Judges 16), or the Corinthian believers (1 Cor. 1:7; 3:1-4).

VII. The distribution of spiritual gifts

- A. No Christian has all the spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:27-31).
- B. Any believer, on occasion, may experience any spiritual gift. Someone may be given a gift of evangelism for an unbeliever without actually being an evangelist.
- C. Usually one or two gifts are dominant in us.
- D. The use of the gifts is not automatic. Their use may be affected by:
 1. The sovereign will of God (John 5:1-19; Luke 5:17);
 2. Our level of faith (Ro. 12:6);
 3. Or the faith of those to whom we minister (Mark 6:1-6; Mt. 13:58).

VIII. The nature of the gifts of healing

- A. The plural “gifts” (1 Cor. 12:9, 28, 30) indicates that there are different kinds of healing.
 1. There is physical healing, which includes:
 - a. every kind of disease (Mt. 9:35; Acts 5:16);
 - b. all forms of crippling, deformation, maiming, amputation (Mt. 15:30; Luke 22:51; Acts 5:7);
 - c. the blind, deaf and mute (Mt. 12:22; Mark 7:32-35).
 - d. and raising the dead (Mt. 10:8).
 2. Healing also includes deliverance from the power of Satan and demons (Mt. 12:22; 15:21-28; Acts 10:38).
 3. There is emotional healing, **the most important healing, cf. Pr. 4:23, “Guard your heart for it is the wellspring of life.”** Emotional illness may be caused by demons, trauma, drugs, chemistry imbalances, our sin, or other causes. Whatever the cause, Jesus has compassion on the hurting (Mt. 9:35-38; Luke 4:18; 6:18; Acts 5:16; 2 Cor. 7:6).
- B. The plural “gifts” may also mean that different people will function better at certain kinds of healing, like physicians who specialize in certain areas of medicine.
- C. The plural “gifts” may also point to the fact that healing power is not resident within us, but has to be given fresh in each situation.
- D. The spiritual gifts are given to serve both believers and unbelievers. Therefore, unbelievers may be healed without first becoming believers. Many times the Scripture says that Jesus healed them all. It would be unreasonable to think that “all” were believers.