

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sermon: Spiritual Gifts, Part 2

Topic: Faith and Healings

Scripture Text: James 5:13–18

06/08/2014

Quote: “Faith is not getting from God what you want; faith is accepting from God what gives”

James 5:13–18 (NKJV) ¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. 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 sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. ¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. ¹⁸ And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

In our series on the Holy Spirit we are now talking about the Gifts given to us by or through the Holy Spirit. In the first three messages I hope to have pointed out the difference between Spiritual Gifts and Spiritual Offices primarily outlined in I Eph 4:11-16.

1 Corinthians 12:7–9 (NKJV) ⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*: ⁸ for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,

1. **The Word of Wisdom** - A gift born from the application of applying Spiritual knowledge and Spiritual understanding given by God to see from God's perspective.
2. **The Word Of Knowledge** is a definite conviction, impression, or knowing that comes to you in a similitude (a mental picture), a dream, through a vision, or by a Scripture that is quickened to you. It is a supernatural insight or understanding of circumstances, situations, problems, or a body of facts by revelation; that is, without assistance by any human resource but solely by divine aid. by [David Holt Boshart, Jr.](#)

Today we will look at two more Spiritual gifts mentioned in *1 Corinthians 12:9*, faith and the gifts of healing.

Faith - a spiritual gift is probably an unusual measure of trust in God beyond that exercised by most Christians¹

The Spiritual gift of Faith we are talking about today is different from "Saving Faith". All Christians receive "Saving Faith" but the special Spiritual gift of Faith (belief in God) is a gift

¹ Lowery, D. K. (1985). 1 Corinthians. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck, Ed.) (1 Co 12:7–10). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

whereby the Spirit provides Christians with extraordinary confidence in God's promises, power, and presence, so they can take heroic stands for the future of God's work in the church. The spiritual gift of faith is exhibited by one with a strong and unshakeable confidence in God, His Word, and His promises. Examples of people with the gift of faith are those listed in Hebrews chapter 11. (refer to list)

Think of the faith Noah must have had to spend 120 years building an Ark in preparation of rain that was unknown or never seen.

Think of the faith Job must have had to say:

" Job 13:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him..."

This verse in Job and the following verse in Heb 11:6 that says"

Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

These have been foundation verses for my faith (belief) and desire to be faithful in spite of disappointments or the unknown future.

This gift, to me is unique to the others in that I believe every believer has a measure of this gift but we can cause this gift to increase within us to the pleasure of God. Like all the other gifts this gift is given to the church for edification and profit for all. But using and growing this gift will be a sure way to please God.

The more we exercise it the stronger it grows.

We all either know someone or have heard of someone that demonstrated this spiritual gift of extraordinary faith seemingly against all known odds. Some of us have secretly desired to have such faith. Just by our desiring to have that faith will begin to build us up (edify).

In our responsive reading chapter, there is a powerful verse for our edification in Verse 13
Heb 6:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Abraham did not receive the promise but he saw, had faith that it would happen in the future.

To those that do not believe when they see us still holding on to our faith in spite of difficulties, disappointments, illness, troubles at home or in our families, they view our faith as extraordinary even when we don't see it in our lifetime. An example could be the salvation of a loved one. Or even when God says "no". That is a "spiritual gift" that edifies the church.

This year we are exercising our faith in praying for our priority prayer request. We are praying in faith that God will answer our request for our good and or His glory. Through our faith we in faith are ready to except His answer according to His will.

This is exercising and growing the Spiritual gift of Faith.

Gifts of Healings - The spiritual gift of healing is the supernatural manifestation of the Spirit of God that miraculously brings healing and deliverance from disease and/or infirmity.

We have categorized spiritual gifts into two categories, Speaking Gifts and Serving Gifts. I want to add today a sub category to serving gifts and that of Sign Gifts. A Spiritual SIGN Gift is for the purpose of giving a sign to authenticate a message, the Gospel, a person as a servant of God or a sign of God Himself. These gifts were often temporary, or reserved for the Apostles, Prophets and Evangelist. They, as healings, were used to authenticate the messenger or the message.

Notice it says GIFTS of HEALINGS. Both key words are plural. There are many types of gifts for many types of healings. Jesus, the Apostles, prophets and others healed many different types of disease in different ways. Every gifted person could not heal every type of illness.

Healings were not an everyday norm even in Paul's ministry. Consider that Paul was able to heal others but not himself nor did he ask another Apostle to heal him.

His friend Epaphroditus was near death (*Phil. 2:27*), and Paul did not heal him. God intervened. When Timothy was sick, Paul did not heal him, but told him to take some wine (*1 Tim. 5:23*). Paul left Trophimus "sick at Miletus" (*2 Tim. 4:20*).²

Today there are those that try to market and profit from this Spiritual Gift they claim to have. Some use trickery, deception, water, cloths, seed money and just plain lies to deceive.

God can still heal miraculously but I am not convinced He does so in the manner as some false healers claim.

Our focus passage tells us how to approach healings in the church today.

V13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. 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 sick, and the Lord will raise him up.

Sad to say that some people will send their money to buy a so-called healing item, or travel far just to be in the presence of a so-called healer or touch the TV or radio rather than call the elders of the church.

Let me close with this excerpt from *GotQuestions.org*, for citation purposes, you may reference our CEO, **S. Michael Houdmann**.

"God still performs miracles. God still heals people. There is nothing preventing God from healing one person through the ministry of another person. However, the miraculous gift of healing, as a spiritual gift, does not seem to be functioning today. God can certainly choose to intervene in whatever manner He sees fit, whether "normal" or miracle. Our salvation itself is miracle. We were dead in sin, but God entered our lives and made us new creatures ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)). That is the greatest healing of all."

² *The MacArthur Study Bible*. 1997 (J. MacArthur, Jr., Ed.) (electronic ed.) (1747). Nashville, TN: Word Pub.

Christ has and still can heal physical and mental disease but His greatest healing was healing us from the damnation of sin.

Isaiah 53:5 (NKJV) 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.*

Message Scriptures: **James 5:13–18, 1 Corinthians 12:7–9, 1 Corinthians 12:9, Job 13:15, Heb 11:6, Heb 6:13, Phil. 2:27, 1 Tim. 5:23, 2 Tim. 4:20, Isaiah 53:5**

END

FOR THE PROFIT OF ALL

1 Corinthians 12:7 (NKJV) ⁷ **But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:**

v. 7. The Spirit was manifested by the exercise of these gifts; his influence and interest appeared in them. But they were not distributed for the mere honour and advantage of those who had them, but for the benefit of the church, to edify the body, and spread and advance the gospel. Note, Whatever gifts God confers on any man, he confers them that he may do good with them, whether they be common or spiritual. The outward gifts of his bounty are to be improved for his glory, and employed in doing good to others. No man has them merely for himself. They are a trust put into his hands, to profit withal; and the more he profits others with them, the more abundantly will they turn to his account in the end, Phil. 4:17. Spiritual gifts are bestowed, that men may with them profit the church and promote Christianity. They are not given for show, but for service; not for pomp and ostentation, but for edification; not to magnify those that have them, but to edify others.

VI. The measure and proportion in which they are given: *All these worketh one and the same Spirit, dividing to every man as he will.* It is according to the sovereign pleasure of the donor. What more free than a gift? And shall not the Spirit of God do what he will with his own? May he not give to what persons he pleases, and in what proportion he pleases; one gift to one man, and another to another; to one more, and another fewer, as he thinks fit? Is he not the best judge how his own purpose shall be served, and his own donatives bestowed? It is not as men will, nor as they may think fit, but as the Spirit pleases. Note, The Holy Ghost is a divine person. He works divine effects and divides divine gifts as he will, by his own power, and according to his own pleasure, without dependence or control. But though he distributes these gifts freely and uncontrollably, they are intended by him, not for private honour and advantage, but for public benefit, for the edification of the body, the church.

Henry, M. (1994). *Matthew Henry's commentary on the whole Bible: Complete and unabridged in one volume* (2266). Peabody: Hendrickson.

Keep in mind that Christian gifts are not necessarily a mark of Christian character or spiritual maturity. These Corinthian believers were carnal, yet they exercised wonderful and miraculous gifts. Wiersbe, W. W. (1992). *Wiersbe's expository outlines on the New Testament*