

Discipleship 301 Chapter 09

Open with insights into what the Holy Spirit is doing in your life.

The next gifting to look at is the area of gifts of healing. The statement is plural and the original teaching on it was lost to the church but the coming revival is going to bring the understanding to light again. The authority for healing works in a similar fashion to deliverance. If you have been given authority in the situation you may speak with authority of the Spirit behind you and the Holy Spirit carries out that which you have spoken. The more specific you can speak to the problem to be changed, the more effective the prayer is.

Matthew 10:1, Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11, Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,^[a] and to still another the interpretation of tongues.^[b] ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

1 Corinthians 12:27-28, Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. ²⁸ And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, ...

This shows that God has a structure of spiritual authority in his church through which the Holy Spirit works. This was put into place from the beginning of the church and still exists today. The more closely God's people are aligned with his authority, the greater faith they have to act in his authority. Every church of the Lord (as per the Book of Revelation), has his anointing and has this structure of authority in it. Every church has its strengths and weaknesses but the greatest factor in the manifestation of the varied gifts is the belief and faith in the Lord in these areas of ability.

The basic structure is Apostles to help move the Body of Christ in his authority, Prophets to give guidance in the direction to go. Teaching ministries to help build the body in faith in the different areas of faith. Next in the structure under the 5 offices of leadership is the Deliverance ministry, then the healing ministry. These are listed as first of importance in the body. The church believes in what they can accomplish by their efforts more than what they trust God to give them. The church needs to believe God to give them what he desires to. Many people have these varied gifts but they are not manifest because of little faith in God in these areas. Those with these gifts have a harder work of faith in order to develop them. What does this mean for us? Discuss what is needed in terms of encouragement to believe. How can we pray for people?

The scripture says that he gave ability to heal every sickness and disease. There were gifts of healing given. There is given large anointings in special gatherings to heal many. But we will speak on a smaller individual believer level. When the Lord distributes gifts, he gives according to need of people. Many are trusting God for healing in their bodies and I am convinced some have been given gifts of healing in certain areas as they have need. As the church prays for ministry of healing to be raised up these will be made manifest in people. How will we know if someone has gifting in healing? There should be a greater compassion for people sick and a greater faith to see them healed. These people should be encouraged to step out in faith and pray for people that are in need. As the mantle of the church strengthens in this area of faith, the stronger the people gifted will be. How should one start out praying for healing?

There are different areas that people may may be gifted in to start. There should be a greater faith or confidence in certain areas of need than others. The Lord will provide a leading or prompting to pray for certain people. Just like in salvation, not everyone is in a right place in faith to receive healing. Like salvation, people need to grow in faith to be healed. Also those praying for healing need to trust God with results and realize that they may get some results each time they pray, and they may need to persist in praying for that particular need. Discuss these concepts.

John 9:1-7, As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

³ "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. ⁷ "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

Luke 13:10-13, On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, ¹¹ and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity." ¹³ Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.

There is discernment of what needs to be prayed for that comes with the gifting and needs to be developed. Also secondary gifts can be developed that enhance the discernment. Discerning of spirits is very valuable. Discuss the implications and pray for one another in this regard.