Gifts of The Spirit Week 4

The Gift of Healing

The gift of healing is the most commonly accepted gift, for both believers and non-believers alike. It is the gift we are most likely to answer the call to, for we are familiar with it, and know verses to share and stand on. But this gift goes beyond the call to lay hands on the people as we see in Mark 16:17-18 *And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.* The gift of healing goes beyond our depth of faith, or that of the one to receive healing. It is the power of God, manifesting through us, at His direction.

The gift of healing is often-times paired with one or more other gifts, such as the Word of Knowledge, the gift of faith, and the gift of miracles. Healing does not manifest the same way every time. There is no “formula” we are to follow; it’s not a copy and paste situation. We listen to what the Holy Spirit is telling us, submit and obey His directions, and let Him work through us. We often see this in our own church, when Pastor Chris receives a Word of Knowledge, and calls specific aliments to come down for prayer during the alter call.

Let’s look at some of the other ways we see healing being accomplished in scripture.

We have healing through prayer alone. This does not require us to lay hands on a person, or for them to even be present. This can be us stepping forth as an intercessor, to stand in and receive. Or it can be through us praying out to God on their behalf.

*Then Abraham prayed to God; and God healed Abim′elech, and also healed his wife and female slaves so that they bore children. For the Lord had closed all the wombs of the house of Abim′elech because of Sarah, Abraham’s wife. Genesis 20:17-18*

We can also see God directly healing Hannah of her barrenness in 1 Samual 1:19-20 *Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned and came to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel saying, “Because I have asked for him from the LORD” 1 Samuel 1:19-20 NKJV*

Then we have healing with instructions. Where God tells us, either directly or through the one listening to the Holy Spirit, to follow specific directions to receive the healing.

 There was Syrian commander by the name of Naaman who wanted to be healed of his leprosy. He was told by the prophet Elisha to dip himself seven times in the Jordan River to be cured. This is in 2 Kings 5 10, 14 *And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean.” So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.*

King Hezekiah of Judah was sick and near death. Isaiah the prophet told the king that he was going to die. Hezekiah prayed to the Lord to have his life extended as well as to be healed from his infirmity. God granted the request. He promised that the king would live another fifteen years. However, Isaiah ordered that figs were to be placed upon the boil of Hezekiah in order for him to be healed of his ailment. *Then Isaiah said, “Take a lump of figs.” So they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered” 2 Kings 20:7 NKJV.*

There is also healing for those who are not believers, or those whose faith is still immature or do not have revelation on the Holy Spirit.

Philip went down to a city of Samar′ia, and proclaimed to them the Christ. And the multitudes with one accord gave heed to what was said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs which he did. For unclean spirits came out of many who were possessed, crying with a loud voice; and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. Acts 8:5-7 RSV

 These are oftentimes great candidates for the enemy to come and pluck the word from, for they do not have the deep roots yet to be immune to his tactics.

The sower sows the word. And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown; when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word which is sown in them. And these in like manner are the ones sown upon rocky ground, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; and they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. Mark 4:14-17

Let’s look at healing tied to other gifts.

Healing and the gift of faith

As he entered Caper′na-um, a centurion came forward to him, beseeching him **6**and saying, “Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress.” **7**And he said to him, “I will come and heal him.”But the centurion answered him, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, “Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.” And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; be it done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed at that very moment. Matthew 8:5-13 RSV

And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon.” But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” And he answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly. Matthew 15:22-28 RSV

Healing and miracles

And when she came to the mountain to the man of God, she caught hold of his feet. And Gehazi came to push her away. But the man of God said, “Leave her alone, for she is in bitter distress, and the Lord has hidden it from me and has not told me.” Then she said, “Did I ask my lord for a son? Did I not say, ‘Do not deceive me?’” He said to Gehazi, “Tie up your garment and take my staff in your hand and go. If you meet anyone, do not greet him, and if anyone greets you, do not reply. And lay my staff on the face of the child.” Then the mother of the child said, “As the Lord lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So he arose and followed her. Gehazi went on ahead and laid the staff on the face of the child, but there was no sound or sign of life. Therefore he returned to meet him and told him, “The child has not awakened.”

When Elisha came into the house, he saw the child lying dead on his bed. So he went in and shut the door behind the two of them and prayed to the Lord. Then he went up and lay on the child, putting his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands. And as he stretched himself upon him, the flesh of the child became warm. Then he got up again and walked once back and forth in the house, and went up and stretched himself upon him. The child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.  2 Kings 4:27-37 ESV

Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet and implored him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live.” And he went with him.

While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?” But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.” And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. And when he had entered, he said to them, “Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. Taking her by the hand he said to her, “Talitha cumi,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.” And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement.  Mark 5:22-24, 35-43 ESV

The resurrection of Lazarus John 11:1-44 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. (43-44)