



Spiritual Gifts #4

The Gifts of Miracles and Healings

With Signs and Wonders

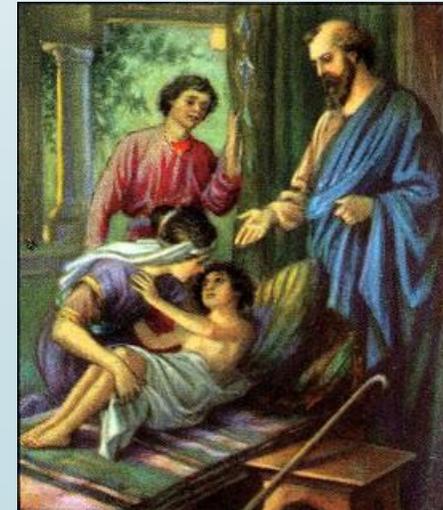


- From the prophets of old to the apostles in the church, God's messengers were given special signs (Exo. 4:8-9; Dan. 6:27) to let others to know that these were God's spokesman. (see Exo. 4:30-31)
- “with **signs** and **wonders** and **mighty works**” (2 Cor. 12:12)
- (Rom. 15:15-20) More than once Paul referred to his apostleship through the signs and wonders

From the Viewpoint of the Jews

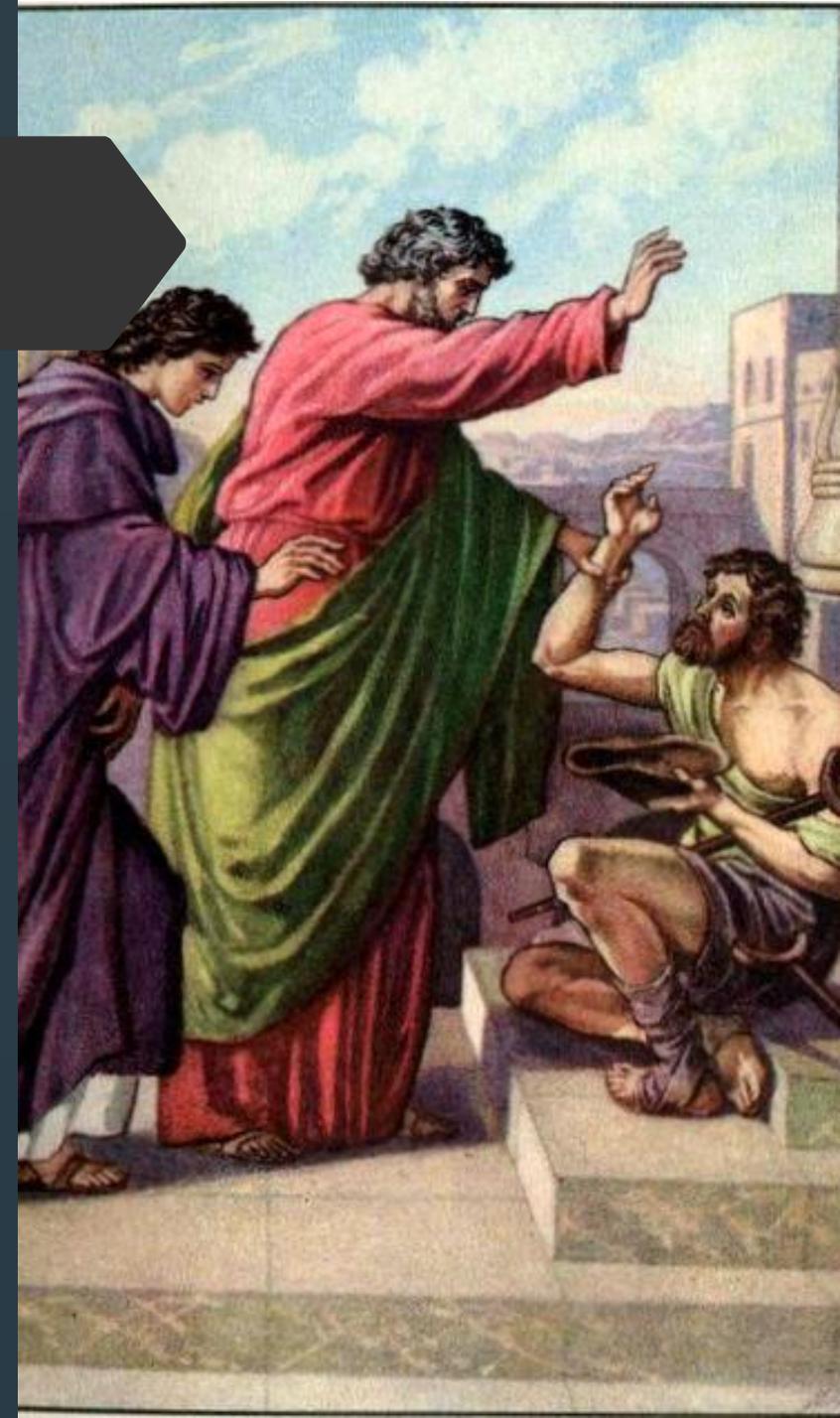


- In the Old Testament, the people sought after signs from the “prophet” to see if he was God’s spokesman or not (e.g. 1 King 17:22-24)
- The **Jews** sought a sign from Jesus to see if he is from God or not (Mark 8:11; Luke 11:16)
- “The Jews demand signs” (1 Cor. 1:22)
- Through out the book of Acts sign gifts were mainly in the presence of the Jews (i.e. Acts 10:44-47; 14:2-3)



The gifts shall cease

- In 1 Corinthians chapter 13 we see that some gifts will cease one day. (v.8-10)
- It is in comparison to the nature of **love**, which will never cease (God is love)
- (1 Cor 13:10) here the word “that” is **neuter**, most likely referring to the Bible—the only thing referred to as **perfect** beside God (Psalm 19:7)
- In the **beginning** of each biblical age (dispensation) there are many signs and miracles, and later on cease as mankind enters into a new normal (age)



What is the Gift of Miracles?



- A gift given by God to His people to alter the laws of nature with **supernatural** power (to serve a purpose in the church)
- The word “miracle” means “power or “mighty work”. This word is also used to describe the miracles of Christ (Matt. 11:20-23; 13:54)
- Examples of this gift: Acts 5:9-11; 13:8-11
- A clear distinction should be made between **God’s miracles** and the gifts of miracles in the church. God can perform miracle at any time, regardless of a gifted person



The Gift of Healings



- Just like gift of miracles, a clear distinction should be made between **healing** (God can heal) and the gift of **healings** itself—which authenticate God's messengers (e.g. Acts 2:22)
- Even with the people that clearly possess this gift (e.g. Paul), there were times where God chose **not** to heal the person through the gifted person (i.e. 2 Cor. 12:7-10; 1 Tim. 5:23)
- Some noteworthy examination of biblical healing should be made clear: it is **instantaneous** (Mark 1:42), **complete** (Luke 8:43), **permanent** (Matt. 14:36), and **purposeful** (Luke 5:15-16).

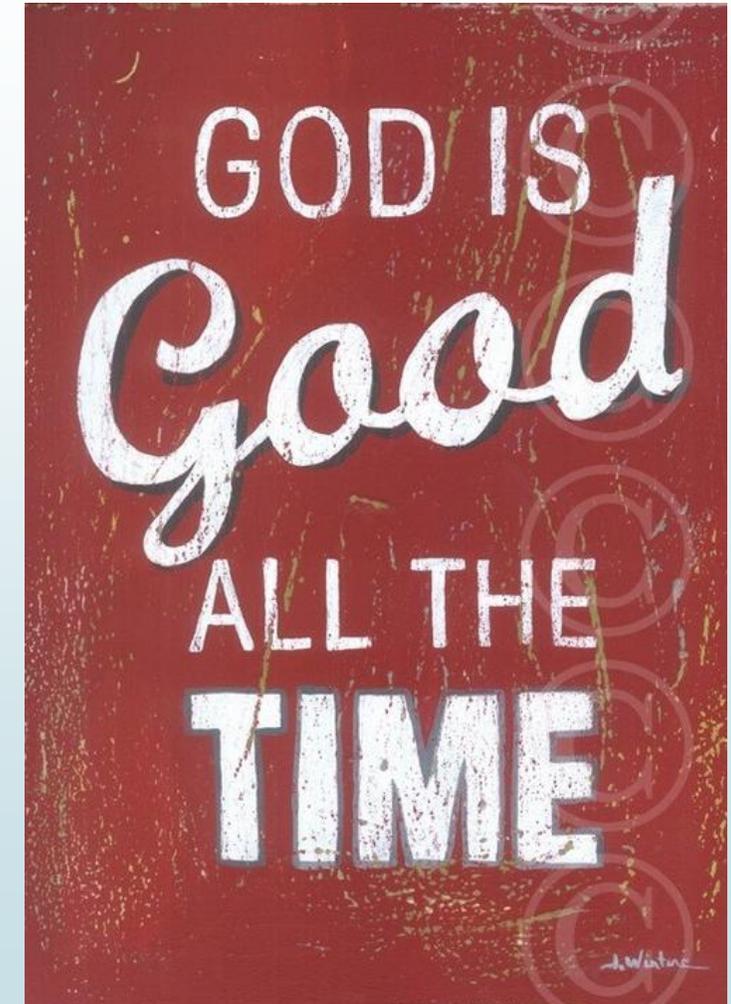
False Ideas about Healing...



- There are several false doctrines that are very popular today:
- First, healing is **guaranteed in the atonement** (as in all saved Christian should be healed from sickness)
- Misread 1 Peter 2:24, see Isa. 53:4-6, speaking of spiritual healing poetically
- There will be **total healing** in the new heaven and new earth (Rev. 22:2) and we are called to wait patiently for our physical salvation (Rom. 8:18-25) (Note: sickness and decay is the **NORMAL** condition of mankind today, as well as all of creation)



- Second, many believe that it is God's desire for **all** sick person to be healed
- **God is good + Health is good = no one should be sick**. Therefore God always answers our prayer of health and healing
- Nevertheless, this is just not the case biblically (1 Tim. 5:23; 2 Tim. 4:20). People of faith could get sick and not be healed (2 Cor. 12:7-10)
- **God is good** and ultimately has a great plan for all of us (Jer. 29:11) sometimes even through sickness (i.e. John 9:3; Rom. 8:28)



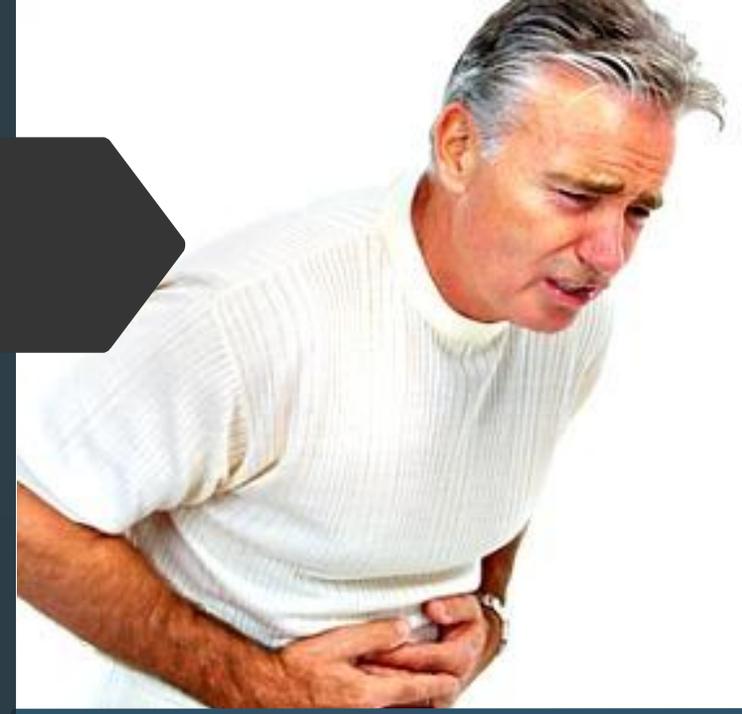


- ▶ Third, physical illness is the **reason of sin**, the **lack of faith**, or the **work of the enemies** (and other reasons)
- ▶ If I don't have enough faith, better go get a **faith healer**...but it is not the faith healer's fault that I am not heal, since I don't have enough faith...blaming and judging is the last thing a sick person needs
- ▶ Having faith in **faith** vs. having faith in **God** are very different, which one do you have?
- ▶ (Job 2:4-6) God was very cruel to Job, until we read the end (Job 42:12-13) Do you have faith in God?



Escape from Pain

- ▶ We all desire **health**, but we desire the **escape of pain** even more. This is very **natural**
- ▶ Nevertheless, many “good” things can easily become **idols** in our lives (i.e. good job, obedient children)
- ▶ We can rejoice in God and have peace in Him because of who God is, and not because of our circumstance. As we see the goodness of God we can **find joy in Him** (Phil. 4:4), even in time of sickness



Final thought:

- It is totally appropriated for us to **pray for healing**, and to pray for each other, and expecting God to answer our prayers. He is compassionate (Matt. 9:35-36)
- Please pray boldly for healing and believe that **God can heal**. There is no decease too great that God CANNOT heal.
- Nevertheless God is God and he knows what brings Him glory and “works together for good” at the end. We must believe His goodness is better than what I think is “good”, even health. (Psa. 107)
- Let us **love another**, especially to the sick among us

**GOD IS
GOOD**
ALL THE TIME