



“Gifts’r’Us – Gifts For Healing”

The Aim of the Session

Gifts for Healing is an enormous subject that cannot be covered in just one session! The aim is to show that God can and does heal physically and that we should pray with faith that he will - but us more interested in seeing then healed spiritually.

- **Welcome**

Which is your favourite TV medical drama and why? How real do you think it is?

- **Worship**

Read 1 Peter 2:24-25. Give thanks for the healing you have received, thanks to the Cross of Jesus Christ, thanks to his suffering you have been healed. Note: the context of the verses he quotes from Isaiah is about spiritual healing – we will come to physical healing in a moment!

- **Word**

Some simple statements....

- Everyone who Jesus laid hands on was healed...
- ... But the people healed by Jesus still died.
- There were places where Jesus did not heal people (Matt 13:58).
- God chooses to heal some people but not everyone.
- There are sometimes reasons why people are not healed but ideas that it “didn’t happen” because they did not have enough faith or had sinned are dangerous and usually untrue.
- God is more interested in people being healed spiritually.

Some people make the wrong statement that “God wants everyone to be healed”. God **does** want everyone to be healed spiritually (“made whole”) and God **does** heal people physically, too, but not always. Sometimes he uses Doctors and the God-given understanding they have. If we try and find the reasons why some are and some aren’t healed, we are in danger of trying to predict the work of the Holy Spirit (John 3:8) and formularising God’s power.

When Jesus walked this earth, he was fully God, as well as fully human, and the power of God was bursting out of him – so the overwhelming presence of God and His Kingdom meant that healing was inevitable. Equally, in the early days of the Church, when the Holy Spirit was able to work in great power, it was a time when healings were daily experiences. God’s Spirit still moves today in power and people are healed – but not in such numbers. We should still be praying in faith for physical healing to happen in our Churches in the knowledge that God can and does heal.

If someone in the group has experienced physical healing, invite them to share their experience.

- When did they know there had been physical healing?
- Was it instantaneous or over a period?
- Was the healing permanent?
- What effect did it have on their relationship with God?

What is the reaction of the group to this testimony?

- Do some doubt that these things happen “these days”... if so, why?
- Do some doubt that God would or could heal them? If so, please share why?

- Do we not feel worthy to be healed? Is that, in fact, the case?
- How does God respond to this?

Read Mark 1:29-45

- ❖ What was Peter's mother-in-law's reaction to being healed (v31)? Why?
- ❖ Why did Jesus have such a big physical healing ministry (v32-34) when he came to bring Spiritual healing? (Hint ... You may like to think back to the last study to find a way to address this question!)
- ❖ What was the importance of Jesus being alone (v35)?
- ❖ Why did Jesus go "somewhere else" (v37)? Why was it important?
- ❖ Why was Jesus "willing" (vv40/41)? What drove him?
- ❖ Why did Jesus tell the man to see the Priest (v44)? (Note: Only the priest would have had the authority to pronounce the man to be "clean" and therefore able to re-enter society. But it was more than that – why?)
- ❖ Why did Jesus tell him to keep quiet (vv43/44) with a strong warning?
- ❖ Did it matter that the man disobeyed Jesus?

The desire for an emphasis on physical healing is utterly understandable – but there is often a mistaken belief that being physically healed is the point of the exercise. Jesus healed physically in order to show God's power and to encourage the idea of people being healed spiritually. Mark 2:1-11 tells the story of the paralysed man healed by Jesus in the synagogue in Capernaum. Jesus first pronounces the forgiveness of sins (v5) and then, to prove his authority, heals the man (vv10/11).

Think back over the weeks of this series on the Gifts of the Spirit ...

- Is God "supernatural"? What do we mean by that?
- In which "realm" do we work?
- In which realm(s) does God work?
- What is our responsibility – what must we be doing?
- What will God do, if we do this?

Think back to last couple of weeks and "Gifts For Serving" and "Gifts for Caring": God brings healing and wholeness to the whole community through praying for people's healing and through social action and care

- How does he do this?
- What is our involvement in this?

Read Ephesians 3:20-21!

• Works

Who needs prayer for healing – spiritual or physical? Pray for them ...

- ❖ God has given ALL of us authority to pray for each other in Jesus' name. Use it!
- ❖ God reveals things through praying for healing – pictures, verses and words etc which can speak into all of the areas of healing (physical and spiritual) – seek them!
- ❖ If someone needs prayer that you feel as a group, requires the eldership of the Church to pray for that situation (James 5:14), then call the office.
- ❖ Pray with confidence and seek healing – spiritual and physical.

Next session ... Lots of weeks to meet informally until we start the new series in September.
Coming soon – "The Big Picture" – The Bible (or as much as we can) in a Year.

We shall be starting (amazingly) in Genesis in September, working our way through the Old Testament throughout the Autumn, until we arrive at Christmas (in every sense), looking at the OT understanding of the need for a Saviour. Then we shall look at the Gospels and how Jesus fulfilled that expectation, and then, in the Summer of 2024, we shall explore the way the NT writers unpacked the Big Picture – and the way Jesus wanted us to live in the light of it. Exciting stuff!