

Supernatural Healing

We have been studying the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We are looking at the most visible gifts....also called the dynamic gifts of the Spirit. Tongues, prophecy and now today we will look at the gift of healing.

Spiritual gifts are powers, skills, abilities, or knowledge given by God through the Holy Spirit to Christians. Paul tells the church that the purpose of the spiritual gifts is to edify other believers and, ultimately, to glorify God. God gives these gifts for His use, but in the Corinthian church, they were apparently a type of status symbol or being used to indicate superiority

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 (ESV) 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

Notice in this passage that the gift of healing is plural. "to another, gifts of healing." So there must be more than one type of healing gift.

The gifts of healing could mean a very wide range of skills or abilities. This could be from the power to do miraculous or dramatic healing, like making the lame walk, or the use or understanding of medicine. It could even be the ability to empathize and show love to others to the point of healing an emotional wound. It could be someone who is gifted to help someone heal spiritually.

When Jesus healed, He seemed to do it differently almost every time. One time simply saying get up and walk, another stretch your hand out, another mud spit packs for the eyes, another time he sent the sick person to the priests.

2000 years before HMOs, the Affordable Care Act or co-pays, Jesus made a divinely appointed house call to earth, freeing people spiritually and healing their physical needs. The Gospels are so full of stories of Jesus healing the sick in miraculous and sometimes unusual ways, I can't include them all

In fact, Jesus always seemed to heal people differently. Sometimes He was there...other times he was distant. Sometimes He healed people Himself and at other times He gave others the power to heal in His name. Sometimes He simply spoke...other times He spoke directly to demons.

Sometimes He commanded a dead girl to rise up, another a dead man to get up, and another He called out of the grave.

One time He passively healed a woman who touched His garment and He seemed to not have known it.

Once the Apostle's received the Holy Spirit, they too began to heal people and again each situation seemed to be unique.

Acts 4:29–31 (ESV) 29 And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, 30 while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." 31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

Notice that the Apostle's clearly understood something that modern day Healing Imposters do not. They are praying...God we are going to speak with boldness.....We are going to proclaim the gospel message...We are going to teach your word. WHILE YOU stretch out YOUR HAND to HEAL. Through the name of your Holy Servant Jesus.

The didn't claim to be healers....they knew that whatever healing happened did not come from them. We are going to boldly proclaim the gospel message.....while you decide, if, when, how and whom you will heal. If healing happens....it is not because of us....it is only because God ordained it in the name of Jesus.

They understood that supernatural healing came only from the Super Natural source of God through the Holy Spirit. The Apostles in Acts were often used by God when God decided to heal someone.

Acts 5:16 (ESV) 16 The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

Acts 8:4–8 (ESV) 4 Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. 5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. 6 And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. 7 For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. 8 So there was much joy in that city.

Notice that Philip went to SAMARIA!

Acts 28:7–9 (ESV) 7 Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the chief man of the island, named Publius, who received us and entertained us hospitably for three days. 8 It happened that the father of Publius lay sick with fever and dysentery. And Paul visited him and prayed, and putting his hands on him, healed him. 9 And when this had taken place, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases also came and were cured.

Acts 3:2–7 (ESV) 2 And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. 3 Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. 4 And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." 5 And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. 6 But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of

Nazareth, rise up and walk!" 7 And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.

Acts 9:17–19 (ESV) 17 So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; 19 and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus.

Paul would later describe that moment....

Acts 22:11–13 (ESV) 11 And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus. 12 "And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, 13 came to me, and standing by me said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him.

Acts 14:8–10 (ESV) 8 Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. 9 He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, 10 said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he sprang up and began walking.

Sometimes it is clear that the healings were done to validate the message being spoken.

Acts 2:22–23 (ESV) 22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

Acts 14:1–4 (ESV) 1 Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed. 2 But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. 3 So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. 4 But the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews and some with the apostles.

God decides who gets healed and who does not. While we are told that some "had the faith to be healed" we are not given that as a prerequisite. Our healing is never based on us. We can't make God heal us....we can ask...we can pray and we should....but healing from God is not some spiritual puzzle to solve or some action to take to get the reward.

You and I are healed or not for one reason and one reason only....God's Sovereign Will. It is either in His plan best for us to be healed or best for us to stay sick. We don't know what God

wills so we pray for it. It was in God's plan for John the Baptist to be beheaded. It was in God's plan for Lazarus to die....twice. It was in God's plan for Jesus to suffer and Die on the Cross.

If a physical or spiritual illness has happened to you or to someone you love, God has allowed it. He could have stopped it but He allowed it. He is sovereign. He doesn't owe any of us an explanation and doesn't owe any of us one more heart beat.

Every person who has ever followed Jesus and every person who has rejected Jesus thus far...with a few exceptions like Enoch and Elijah...has died from illness, accident, or at the hand of others.

Every man of great faith....Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, David, all eventually died. Why? Because it was God's sovereign will.

Just as we all showed up here on earth on a day we didn't ordain or plan, we will all leave here on a day we didn't set.

Our faith can move the heart of God but it can't direct or command the hand of God. God will do and has always done what He deems is best.

I spend a great deal of time with people who have been rocked by unexpected disease. They all want to be healed. If they know Jesus they pray for healing and we join them in that prayer with all of our hearts.

When someone gets ill physically it does not surprise God. He knew it was coming. He could have stopped it. But in His Sovereign Will He has allowed it because He has deemed it best. Yes.....God allows disease and death because it is best in His plan.

We act as though we deserve to live a long life and God owes it to us. Particularly if we think the world revolves around us. All of us are born into a fatal disease state of sin. Our bodies here on earth will die. But those reborn in the Holy Spirit will not. We will shed this body and get a new one. No biggie. We are one day all going Home. And in that moment....we are all once and for all....forever healed.

Jesus speaks a great deal about our flawed perspective of life.

In fact our flawed view of life is part of our disease state. We were born in sin....selfish...self worshiping...and arrogantly thinking our lives are all we have and all about us.

But God, through the Scriptures, repetitively tried to teach us that none of that is true.

Luke 12:22-31 (ESV) 22 And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. 24 Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! 25 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? 26 If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? O you of little faith! 29 And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. 30 For all the

nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

1 John 2:15–17 (ESV) 15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

Matthew 6:19–21 (ESV) 19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Colossians 3:1–15 (ESV) 1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. 5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming. 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. 11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. 12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Luke 12:19–21 (ESV) 19 And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." ' 20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' 21 So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

Matthew 16:24–27 (ESV) 24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? 27 For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.

James 4:14–15 (ESV) 14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. 15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."

During our brief stay on earth, we should live with eternity always before us. Whether we live 5 years or 105, our lives are still as fleeting as a vapor. Even Jesus felt the urgency of being about God's work while the opportunity remained. He said, "As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work" (John 9:4).

The God who rules all things may overrule our ideas. If we are not holding our earthly treasures loosely, the overriding of our plans can feel devastating. God often allows unpleasantries into our lives to remind us that this world is not our home

Philippians 3:19-4:1 (ESV) 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. 1 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

Our time here is like a vapor, and then it's gone. Like an exhalation in cold weather, our lives show up for a brief moment and quickly disappear from this earth. All those born into the family of God will, at death, gather in their eternal home and enjoy forever the rewards of serving the Lord on earth

1 Corinthians 3:12-15 (ESV) 12 Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— 13 each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. 14 If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

When you think about eternity...go ahead...think about it.....no ending..always another day....then another....there will never be a time when there is not another day. God put eternity into the heart of man. We are all eternal beings.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (ESV) 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

We need to realize this. Everyone...every person you have ever seen will live for eternity. Those who believe in Christ and those who do not.

Matthew 25:31-34 (ESV) 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Matthew 25:41-46 (ESV) 41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was

hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 43 I was a stranger and you didn't let me in.... 45 Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Notice the last verse...Eternal punishment or eternal life. It is not that you have eternal life...it is that you have eternal life in Christ and because of His righteousness you will be with Him in Heaven.

Sometimes Christians seem to talk as though we go to eternal life in heaven and everyone else perishes. That is not what the Scriptures teach....everyone else goes to eternal punishment....not my words....Jesus.

Perhaps if we understood that we might be bolder evangelists.

I consider that the chief dangers which confront the coming century will be religion without the Holy Ghost, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God, and heaven without hell.
William Booth

Most Christians would like to send their recruits to Bible college for five years. I would like to send them to hell for five minutes. That would do more than anything else to prepare them for a lifetime of compassionate ministry. William Booth

The greatness of a man's power is the measure of his surrender. William Booth

Faith and works should travel side by side, step answering to step, like the legs of men walking. First faith, and then works; and then faith again, and then works again--until they can scarcely distinguish which is the one and which is the other. William Booth

Some of my best men are women! William Booth

I think our perspective of life needs to be readjusted.

If you are a believer in Jesus Christ....this world is not our home and this place is not our destiny. We are in the waiting room....we are in the green room....waiting for the real show...for the real event that we were created for.

We are foreigners here....We don't fit in....We will not be comfortable here....and the longer we live the more we crave going home. Our physical death here on earth is not the end it is really just the beginning.

We can surrender and make sacrifices here for the Gospel because everything here is evaporating. The only purpose this world has is to give sinners time to find their Savior.

Matthew 16:26-27 (ESV) 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? 27 For the Son of

Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.

This world has nothing for me...I will follow You.

But, if you don't know Jesus, this life is all that you have until your eternal punishment. You probably should make the most of it...This world is the best place you will ever see. Our diseased state and physical death is the best that awaits you. But please hear this....You too are in a waiting room. You are an eternal being. But since you are not righteous in Christ...since you chose to reject Him....all that awaits you is eternal punishment in Hell.

My advice to you is to use your time here on earth to find Jesus. Pursue Him with all that you have. Take your doubts and your arrogance to Him. My job is to point you to Jesus...He will take care of the rest.

So what does all of this have to do with the Spiritual Gift of Healing? If you don't understand the disease you will never understand the treatment. If you don't see the world from God's perspective, you will never get comfortable with disease or death. You will never understand why God's people don't get healed every time on earth.

Remember the greatest healing takes place in our lives when we are out of here. All of us will one day be healed of every disease including sin.

We also need to understand that from God's perspective the most important healing that must occur is spiritual. God's perspective is eternal. Healing a physical ailment while we are on earth only has value if in doing so, that healing leads others to Spiritual healing and eternal salvation

So when we pray for someone to be healed physically of a disease and God does not do it, it is simply because it was not part of God's eternal salvation plan. In other words, that physical healing doesn't advance the gospel.

As believers, we need to get comfortable with death. It is only then that we can begin truly living spiritual lives. The power of our faith is best demonstrated during difficult times and often that involves physical illness. It is in our suffering that we become the best evangelists.

Throughout the bible suffering precedes glorification.

1 Peter 4:12-14 (ESV) 12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

Romans 8:16-17 (ESV) 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Philippians 1:29 (ESV) 29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,

2 Corinthians 4:16–18 (ESV) 16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

James 1:2–4 (ESV) 2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

1 Peter 1:6–7 (ESV) 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

All of these writers....Paul, Peter, James understood. We are here to suffer for Christ and in doing so bring glory to Him.

Peter is my favorite and I love the way he just cuts to the chase.

1 Peter 4:12–14 (ESV) 12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

1 Peter 3:16–17 (ESV) 16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

Jesus said it best.

Matthew 16:24 (ESV) 24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

He didn't say...take up your Bible....or take up your journal...or take up your phone....He said...1) Deny yourself....grab nothing that you own bring nothing with you....2) take up his cross....we all have a cross to bear....embrace it....carry it....be glorified in it...and then 3)follow me.

But in order to understand the Spiritual Gift of Healing Today, we must know the difference between the gospels and Acts and the epistles or letters of the Bible.

The Gospels and Acts are historical documents that report on the events that occurred when Jesus walked the earth and in the early church. They are not generally books of theology. They are historical reports of what was occurring.

Don't miss hear me here. They do tell the story of Jesus and at times Jesus decided to put some theology or explanation into the gospels. Jesus taught all the time. But the overall focus of these books is more about what happened then explaining what everything meant.

The Epistles or Letters of the New Testament were primarily theological books. They explained how the church was to operate, how the believer was to live, what Christ's sacrifice meant, why we have hope, etc. They are books written by the Apostles that tell us what everything meant.

So we have to be careful looking at the events of the disciples in the Gospels and early church in Acts....historical moments...and try to glean long term theology out of them. There were many things that happened in Jesus' ministry and in the early church that many not have been prescriptive for the church for all times.

In the Gospels, Jesus routinely performed miracles that involved healings, raising people from the dead, calming storms, casting out demons, and all kinds of supernatural miracles. He is God. His ministry on earth was unique. He had to validate His message and even said, if you don't believe in me then believe in the miracles. In the early church, according the the historical book of Acts....healings....tongues....raising people from the dead.....casting out demons...and other miracles were so commonplace that they were almost routine. They lived in a time when God did these things all the time. But those things are not routine now.

One example is that there have been no authenticated accounts in the modern day church where a man or woman of God has laid hands on a dead person and raised them to life. And people who lie to church leaders and don't tithe enough don't die instantly like Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira did. Neither has anyone seen tongues of fire over the heads of people who had received the Holy Spirit. No churches at present have members routinely speaking in languages other than their own languages like they did in the book of Acts. These were one time occurrences that were used by God to establish the authenticity of the New Testament church. To use historical accounts of the gospels and the book of Acts is to misapply the intent of these books.

Yet healings from God do occur today. God never changes. If He desired to heal in the past to advance or validate the gospel He will do it now. But the question remains does He do it in the same manner now as He did in the early church....I all I am saying is that we are not seeing it.

There are literally hundreds of accounts of miraculous healings today among countless Christians but these are at the discretion of God alone. God miraculously heals some while

choosing not to heal others for His divine purpose. I have seen them and been involved in them.

In God's higher wisdom, He knows who and what to heal and what is best for the believer in choosing not to heal someone. Yes, miracles still happen, but they are not at the direction or discretion of believers but a decision of God alone.

Let me just add here...Your healing is not based on the amount of faith that you have. Please don't fall for that lie. Many people will tell you as you sit in hospice that you just didn't have enough faith.....Your healing is not dependent upon you. God's purposes and decision to heal probably has very little to do with you and more to do with His global initiatives for mankind.

People don't die of illness because they lacked faith....or didn't pray hard enough...or didn't believe hard enough...or didn't tithe enough...or didn't read their bibles enough....or chose not to go on that mission trip....you healing or lack of it is totally up to God...NOT YOU.

Many time Jesus healed people who didn't even know who He was. He healed people who had no faith in Him. He cast out demons from people who had no desire to follow Him.

I don't think that we could argue that Paul lacked faith. He had more faith than almost anyone who has ever believed...and yet he prayed all the time for healing and God said NO. My grace is sufficient for you. In fact, not only did God not heal Him God did the opposite.

He does heal through petitions of prayers but there are times when His answer is no because He has a higher purpose in mind. Our sufferings and afflictions work out a purpose that we may not be able to understand at this time

We are going to continue to talk about healing the next time I preach. But I often hear people say, I don't understand why God doesn't heal. Why doesn't God want to heal me? Why doesn't God heal everyone?

And I tell them....He did...He Does.....He has...He did. .

Never forget that you and I were terminal....we had no hope...we were blind to our sin....paralyzed by our sin....and in desperate need of a cure. We were dying spiritually....for all of eternity.

God is still in the business of miracles. I believe that the greatest miracle of all is that of converting a blind sinner to see their sin and to change the human heart; The miracle of

human conversion is actually greater than any healing miracle because this brings eternal life in Christ.

A healing miracle is only temporary. The person healed will eventually die but the one that is born-again has inherent eternal life that can never be lost and that person can live with God for eternity, never to die again

Those who call themselves or are called by others as "faith healers" are not biblical in any sense. For one thing, God is the one who chooses to heal a person. Supposed faith healers have a win-win situation. If they "heal" a person, then they get the credit because they laid hands on them. If they are not able to heal someone, they usually say that the person lacked faith in God. Jesus never, ever failed to heal even one person on account of their lack of faith.

Neither did any of the apostles neglect to have someone healed due to the person's lack of faith in God. Those faith healers who attribute the inability of someone to be healed on their lack of faith ignore biblical theology. Faith is a gift of God and it is the faith that comes from God alone, freely, and not of our own selves. He might use the prayers of believers but He nowhere says in the general letters in the New Testament that healing will always occur.

One day you and I will likely face a disease that takes us home. We will pray for healing....our friends will pray for our healing....We will beg God to give us more time with our loved ones. We will likely not really understand. Some will suggest we don't have enough faith...others will tell us that we have some unconfessed sin...Some will suggest that we go to some wonder healer....

And yet, God remains faithful, loving, caring and gives us the strength to persevere. God will tell us....No physical healing will come this time.....I am calling you home....Your healing will come when you get home...my plans require this so that others can come home too....I will be with you....I will lead you home...my grace is sufficient for you....Yes Lord...Yes it is. Let's pray.