

## THE GIFT OF HEALING - A SIGN GIFT

TEXT: I COR. 12:28,30

### EXPLANATION

#### I. WHAT WAS INVOLVED IN THIS GIFT

- A. The gift of healing is the God-given ability to intervene in a supernatural way as an instrument for the curing of illness and the restoration of health.
- B. This gift is illustrated in the ministry of the Lord Jesus (Matt. 9:35) and that of the seventy disciples whom He sent out (Matt. 10:7,8; Luke 10:17-20).

### EXERCISE

#### II. HOW THIS GIFT WAS EXERCISED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- A. This gift, like the other sign gifts, was used to authenticate the message of the gospel and those delivering that message (Acts 5:12; Heb. 2:3,4).
- B. This gift was not used to randomly cure every illness. When it was exercised it was done to confirm the gospel being presented (Acts 8:5-7,12).
- C. Notice there were many sick ones in the days of the apostles who were not healed (Phil. 2:25-27; II Cor. 12:7-10; I Tim. 5:23; I Cor. 2:3; II Cor. 11:30; 12:5; Gal. 4:13).
- D. Notice also there were no "healing evangelists" in the New Testament days. It should also be kept in mind that all gifts were to be exercised to build up the body of Christ which is the church.

- E. Peter (Acts 3:6-8; 5:15,16; 9:32-41) as well as Paul possessed this sign gift (Acts 14:8-10; 19:11,12; 18:8,9). Phillip also exercised this gift (Acts 8:6,7).

## EXTENT

### III. HOW THIS GIFT OPERATES AND APPLIES TO INDIVIDUALS IN OUR DAY

- A. The sign gift of physical healing does not extend to our day. Exercise of this gift is not required to believe what God

says in His Word. The message has already been authenticated (Heb. 2:3,4).

- B. God does heal people in our day in answer to prayer but this is not the result of the gift of healing being exercised. Healing is a sovereign act of God to accomplish His will in certain individuals for His own glory (Jn. 9:2,3).
- C. Notice we are not exhorted to heal or to exercise the gift of healing in our day, but we are exhorted to exercise the speaking and serving gifts.
- D. The ministry of healing mentioned in James 5:14-16 is restrictive to God's people and refers to circumstances involving chastening and making reconciliation through repentance and confession. This procedure of calling the elders refers to a private setting in which confession of faults is made.

## ERROR

### IV. HOW THIS GIFT CAN BE MISUSED AND MISAPPLIED

- A. Some attempt to make the sign gift of healing a part of the ministry today. Such an attempt fails to recognize the purpose behind the sign gifts - to authenticate the men and their message prior to the completed revelation of God.]
  
- B. Some claim to possess the gift of healing in our day. Usually the sick are required to exhibit a certain amount of faith however in order to be healed. This claim fails to understand that the sign gifts ceased with the apostolic age. The apostle Paul wasn't lacking in faith and yet he left Trophimus sick at Miletus (II Tim. 4:20).
  
- C. Some who contend that this gift is operative in our day also propagate that it's God's will for everyone to be healed. This assumption fails to understand the effects of the curse of sin (Rom. 5:12; II Cor. 5:4). It is also evident in Paul's affliction that it's not God's will for everyone to be healed. God often uses the sufferings of some to deal with the hearts of others (II Cor. 1:5,6).
  
- D. So-called healing preachers and healing services have become the source of much sensationalism and commercialism because there is a world full of people who are suffering. Statistics have shown that the foregoing almost always begins with disillusionment and ends with disappointment.