

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

A STUDY ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

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PART 9: THE GIFT OF HEALING

THE GIFT OF HEALING

Let us examine the fourth gift of the Holy Spirit:

*“To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the **gifts of healing** by the same Spirit; (1 Corinthians 12:9)*

Operating in this gift of the Holy Spirit – or any other for that matter – is exciting because it means you are in God’s will and He is choosing to use you for something particular. It is wonderful knowing that the path you’re on is sanctioned by God and receiving His blessing in the form of one of the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Sickness has been a curse upon the human race since Eve was seduced by the serpent’s enticing words. Healthcare as we know it today did not exist for the last 4,000 years. People didn’t know what caused diseases. Sanitation was poor, and infections spread easily. Depending upon the civilization, illnesses were often seen as punishments from the gods.

We can prevent diseases that once were fatal. Measles, polio, rabies, yellow fever, tuberculosis, and cholera can be prevented with vaccines. Antibiotics make deadly infections treatable. Modern medicine can replace hearts, defeat once-incurable infections, and monitor your health from a wristwatch.

This was not the case when Jesus started His earthly ministry. Most of the people with a disability (i.e. blind, lame, leper) could not work and were reduced to begging if there was no family support. Hospitals did not exist and any healing came from natural remedies. So when Jesus arrived, it was like a breath of fresh air as everyone was healed – no one was left behind.

The God-man did not use surgery or medication, He merely spoke and the power of the Holy Spirit performed the healing supernaturally. We just don’t know how the blind were made to see, the lame could walk, the lepers were cleansed, the deaf made to hear, and the maimed were made whole.

“And Jesus departed from thence, and came nigh unto the sea of Galilee; and went up into a mountain, and sat down there. And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus’ feet; and he healed them: Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel.”

(Matthew 15:29-31)



Jesus was aware that it would be another 1,800 years before humans understood and mastered the production and transmission of electricity to operate different tools. This opened the door for humanity to build a health care system that alleviated some diseases and made it possible to restore people who had been wounded.

Healing the sick was a vital part Jesus' ministry and it was extended to each generation of Christians.

THE HEALING COMMISSION

During the three and a half years of Jesus' ministry, He commissioned the twelve apostles and the seventy others to go out and heal the masses.

"And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give." (Matthew 10:1, 7-8)

"After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come. Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.

And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you." (Luke 10:1-2, 9)

"And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight. All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the

Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him. (Luke 10:17-22)

It is noteworthy that Jesus never asked the people being healed if they believed in Him as the Messiah, nor did He tell the apostles and the seventy others to inquire about the beliefs of the sick.

Jesus showed grace and mercy to people, regardless of their beliefs. That does not mean that Jesus was okay with people sinning. When the ungodly religious leadership brought a woman caught in adultery to Jesus, He told her to go and sin no more.

“When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.” (John 8:10-11)

The Jewish people saw Jesus displaying power as the Son of God and doing good to everyone He met. Meanwhile, all the Devil could offer was more lies, cheating, stealing, and murder. Satan does not have the power to heal the sick and wounded.

“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)

I have prayed for many people to be healed during my time as an evangelist/pastor. Healing is a tool to bring people to Christ as they receive their healing from God.

THE LAME MAN

When Peter and John started to flow in the Holy Spirit after the day of Pentecost, Saul of Tarsus was not saved; in fact, he was the chief persecutor of the Christians. His teaching on the gifts of the Holy Spirit was not yet written.¹

More than likely Peter and John were ignorant of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, operating solely on the commands of Jesus when He sent them out to heal people and cast out demons.

“And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.” (Matthew 10:1)

When Peter and John encountered the lame man outside the temple gate, they did not hesitate and Peter took him by the right hand and lifted him to his feet in the name of Jesus. The Holy Spirit responded and the lame man was made whole in the blink of an eye.

¹ 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

“Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.” (Acts 3:1-8)

THE DEAD WOMAN

When Peter was informed that a Christian woman named Tabitha (Dorcas) had died as a result of sickness, he did not hesitate and went to the house where the corpse was located. Peter walked into the room, prayed, and then spoke to Tabitha and told her to rise from the bed. The Holy Spirit was there and she was instantly resurrected.

“Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did. And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber.

And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them.

Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.

But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive. And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.” (Acts 9:36-42)

PETER AND HEALING

Peter was operating in the gift of healing to such a degree that the sick in the street were healed when he walked by and his shadow passed over them.

“And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women. Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.” (Acts 5:14-16)

PAUL AND HEALING

Saul of Tarsus met Jesus on the road to Damascus and he was converted to believe that Jesus was the Messiah; he was baptized in the Holy Spirit and one of the gifts that manifested in his life was the gift of healing.

“And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.” (Acts 19:11-12)

HOLY SPIRIT STILL HERE

When the baptism of the Holy Spirit returned in power during the Azusa Street revival in Los Angeles in 1906, the gifts of the Holy Spirit also started to operate just like the Book of Acts time period. Tens of thousands of men and women traveled to Azusa Street to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and they returned home and spread the good news that the Holy Spirit was present. In time, the following men and women arrived on the scene:

- ❖ Smith Wigglesworth, 1859-1947, British Pentecostal evangelist
- ❖ Aimee Semple McPherson (1890-1944), founder of the Foursquare church denomination.
- ❖ Kathryn Kuhlman, 1907-1976, Pentecostal evangelist
- ❖ A.A. Allen, 1911-1970, Pentecostal evangelist
- ❖ Oral Roberts, 1918-2009, Pentecostal evangelist and founder of Oral Roberts University
- ❖ Tommy Lee Osborn, 1923-2013, Pentecostal evangelist

KATHRYN KUHLMAN

I had the privilege of attending two meetings (San Francisco and Oakland) with Kathryn Kuhlman. Both meetings took place in the 1970s in California. At this time, I was a student at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, a Southern Baptist seminary which rejected the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The Southern Baptist's erroneously believe that the fiery baptism of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost was a historical event during the apostolic time that ceased with the last apostle.

The first meeting took place in Oakland and I told my wife we should get there early to ensure we got a seat. We were there one hour before the start time and discovered the entire block where the auditorium was located was ringed with people – six persons abreast. When we joined the line, people were singing Gospel hymns; the most remarkable being the chorus “Hallelujah,” which was a new song at that time.

These were large city blocks and a song would start at the corner and work itself around the block. A new song was started after it came full circle. I had never experienced anything like it before. I realized there were many people in wheelchairs and some were standing with crutches. We had only been there a short time when a commotion broke out as one of the people in a wheelchair got up and shouted that they had been healed.

It was a full hour before the doors were opened and hundreds of people were healed. I could feel the power of the Holy Spirit and the air was filled with singing and shouting as those who were healed excitedly ran up and down the street.

When we got inside the building, the air was electric and I could feel the spiritual energy surging through my body. There was a combined choir from all kinds of churches and they sang their hearts out and so did the congregation. Those in wheelchairs who had not yet been healed were held in a special section. When Kathryn came out to speak, there was a hush among us and we listened intently as she taught from the Bible.

Suddenly she stopped preaching and proclaimed “He is here! He is here! The Holy Spirit is ready to heal!” She pointed to someone in the crowd and told them “God is just now healing you, come forward.”

Eventually hundreds of people had formed a line snaking its way to the platform, and when they met Kathryn, she asked them from what they had been healed. We were there for hours and no one left the meeting; we were riveted by the healings and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

What impressed me the most was people being healed outside waiting for the meeting to start. I knew the Holy Spirit was real; there was no further doubt in my mind. My life was forever changed as I held future meetings and invited people for salvation, rededication, and healing.

The second Kathryn Kuhlman meeting took place some six months later in San Francisco. I had invited two other couples, Peter and Monica and Bob and Evy. We arrived even earlier this time and experienced the same thing with a throng of people standing around a whole block.

We ended up standing in the back of the auditorium even though we were early, but I did not care and excitedly waited for Kathryn to preach. She did so and then suddenly at some point Kuhlman stopped and pointed a finger at the back and described the clothing that Evy was wearing. She stated in a strong voice, "You lady have just been healed". No sooner had Kathryn finished speaking these words than Evy collapsed on the floor and was out cold. I was later told that she had been slain in the Spirit. After a while she revived and told us that she had been healed from a long-standing problem.

I saw more people being called out and some just dropped to the floor. I could see people getting out of wheelchairs, while some held up crutches after they got a healing. The meeting continued for several hours before Kuhlman left the stage.

MY PERSONAL MINISTRY

During my 56 years in ministry, I have prayed for sick people and witnessed the Holy Spirit do His sovereign work. I have cast out tens of thousands of demons and witnessed people change. Nevertheless, I do not feel like I have the *gift of healing*. I pray for the sick; sometimes they are healed and sometimes not.

All Christians have a commission to pray for the sick, cast out demons, etc. Those with the gift of healing have a 100% success rate when praying for the sick. Ask God what category you are in. Maybe you have the gift of healing and do not know it. The Holy Spirit has not changed over time. He is still the best friend of Christians and wants to be active in your life.

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?