

## H. Healing

1 Corinthians 12:8-9 -- "to one there is given through the Spirit . . . to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit"

1 Corinthians 12:28 -- "And in the church God has appointed those having gifts of healing"

Charles V. Carter, in *The Person and Ministry of the Holy Spirit* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1974), (pp. 276-277), writes:

That there have been and are individuals especially endowed with the gifts of healing (note the gifts here is plural) is well known . . . . It would seem, however, that these gifts of healing may involve much more than direct divine intervention, important as that is. That there are Christian men and women whose natural aptitudes better qualify them for specific branches of medical science and service than their fellows is evident. And that God should call these individuals into various fields of medical service is both Scriptural and logical. Luke was such a physician. Few Christians have greater opportunity to serve God than those who minister to the sick. Christian doctors, nurses, counselors, and psychiatrists exercise their gifts by "the one Spirit" who endows ministers to preach or teachers to teach. And none of the gifts has any Christian meaning or value except as it is exercised in faith. There are no effective Christian gifts apart from faith. To some it is given to perform miraculously (v. 10) [1 Corinthians 12], while others serve in a less spectacular manner. There are Christian specialists in medicine who accomplish cures that are rightly regarded as miraculous.

Michael Green (pp. 174-177), states:

Jesus healed men; and he commissioned his disciples to do the same. It is interesting to recall that the word "save" means in the original "to heal" just as much as it does "to rescue". Undeniably, many of the needy people whom Jesus met in the days of his flesh were both spiritually put right with God and physically healed. Equally undeniably, there is less and less stress on healing as the ministry of Jesus runs its course. He deprecated men's quest for miracles and mighty works; and he was limited in performing them by lack of faith in the recipients. Moreover, on occasion he withdrew from promising healing situations, in order to concentrate on preaching (Mark 1:38; Luke 4:4). Both Peter and Paul exercise gifts of healing in Acts, and healing is given a place in the list of spiritual gifts in I Corinthians 12:9, 28, 30. It is, therefore, a real gift of God to be exercised in and for the body of Christ. But one does not get the impression that it played a major part in the spread of the gospel in early times. It is not mentioned in the lists of workers in the church in Ephesians 4:11, or in the fuller list in