

to perform the miracle or healing. Instances where people are healed in answer to prayer are not instances of exercise of spiritual gifts but are God's working in answer to prayer. If believers gather and pray for a sick person and that person is healed miraculously, this is not evidence that the gift of healing exists today. This demonstrates that God answers prayer.

I. Helps

1 Corinthians 12:28 -- "And in the church God has appointed . . . those able to help others"

Sanders (pp. 120-121) defines as follows:

The gift of "helps" or "ministering" is in essence giving help and assistance to those in need. The verb is used by Paul in writing to the Ephesian believers: "I have showed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak." It may have special reference to the work of deacons. There is wide scope for the exercise of this ministry amongst the poor, sick, aged, orphans and widows. There is more than mere general helpfulness in view. It is rather a special, Spirit-given ability to help in such cases. It is a gift that affords endless scope to those who desire to serve the Lord, yet possess no special gift of utterance.

Edgar (p. 331) states: "The gift of helps is, as other gifts discussed thus far, mentioned only once, with no description except the name helps (Greek ANTILEMPSIS). ANTILEMPSIS means help or assistance."

Williams (pp. 118-119) writes:

This is the special gift of the person who is willing to adopt a support role in any practical area of the Church's ministries. In an age of religious specialists, here is a "jack of all trades" who is glad to put his hand to any task, provided that he is helping people and serving Christ. . . The word is reminiscent of people like Simon of Cyrene, who helped Jesus carry His cross (Mark 15:21) or the family of Stephanas who "addicted" themselves to the ministry (DIAKONIA) (1 Corinthians 16:15). . . .

J. Interpretation of Tongues

1 Corinthians 12:8, 10 -- "To one there is given through the Spirit . . . , and to still another the interpretation of tongues"

1 Corinthians 14:26-28 -- "What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has . . . an interpretation. All of those must be done for the strengthening of the church. If anyone