



infirmity

miracle healing versus natural healing



Definition of infirmities = sicknesses.

MATTHEW CHAPTER 8

16 ¶ When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with *his* word, and healed all that were sick:

17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took **our infirmities**, and bear **our sicknesses**.

In the OLD TESTAMENT, there were physicians and there was medicine;

JEREMIAH CHAPTER 8

22 *Is there* no balm in Gilead; *is there* no physician there? why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?

But the LORD was the preeminent source for healing infirmity.

EXODUS CHAPTER 15

26 ... for I *am* the LORD that healeth thee.

II CHRONICLES CHAPTER 16

12 And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease *was* exceeding *great*: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians.

But that was no guarantee or right of perfect health.

II CHRONICLES CHAPTER 21

18 ¶ And after all this the LORD smote him in his bowels with an **incurable** disease.

JEREMIAH CHAPTER 30

11 For I *am* with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.

12 For thus saith the LORD, Thy bruise *is* incurable, *and* thy wound *is* grievous.

13 *There is* none to plead thy cause, that thou mayest be bound up: thou hast no healing medicines.

14 All thy lovers have forgotten thee; they seek thee not; for I have wounded thee with the wound of an enemy, with the chastisement of a cruel one, for the multitude of thine iniquity; *because* thy sins were increased.

15 Why criest thou for thine affliction? thy sorrow *is* incurable for the multitude of thine iniquity: *because* thy sins were increased, I have done these things unto thee.

With Jesus, the power to heal others was no problem.

LUKE CHAPTER 5

15 But so much the more went there a fame abroad of him [Jesus]: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities.

17 And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judæa, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was *present* to heal them.

LUKE CHAPTER 7

21 And in that same hour he cured many of *their* infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many *that were* blind he gave sight.

22 Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached.

Jesus gave this power to heal others to the twelve disciples.

MATTHEW CHAPTER 10

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.

MARK CHAPTER 3

14 And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,

15 And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:

LUKE CHAPTER 9

THEN he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

2 And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

These gifts of healing also was given to the apostle Paul.

ACTS CHAPTER 19

11 And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:

12 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.

Paul miraculously healed the father of Publius and others.

ACTS CHAPTER 28

8 And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him.

9 So when this was done, others also, which had diseases in the island, came, and were healed:

BUT then this miracle healing power transitions to the natural healing process.

Paul besought the Lord and did not receive healing.

II CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 12

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. ...

EPHESIANS CHAPTER 4

7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

[SIDE NOTE : Paul's infirmity may have been partial blindness. GALATIANS CHAPTER 4

13 Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you at the first.

15 ... for I bear you record, that, if *it had been* possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me.]

Paul now tells Timothy to use medicine (wine) for infirmities.

I TIMOTHY CHAPTER 5

23 Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.

LUKE CHAPTER 10 [the good Samaritan]

34 And went to *him*, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine [medicines], and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

Paul even left Trophimus without any healing or medicine.

II TIMOTHY CHAPTER 4

20 Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick.

NOW we heed to what Jesus said regarding infirmity.

LUKE CHAPTER 5

31 And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick.

In other words, in the NEW TESTAMENT today, they that are sick are directed to seek out a physician as a source for healing infirmity. The occupation of physician is beloved, not despised.

COLOSSIANS CHAPTER 4

14 Luke, the **beloved physician**, and Demas, greet you.

ROMANS CHAPTER 15

WE then that are strong ought to **bear the infirmities of the weak**, and not to please ourselves.

PROVERBS CHAPTER 18

14 The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; ...

ROMANS CHAPTER 8

26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

MATTHEW CHAPTER 25

36 ... I was sick, and ye visited me: ... [no miracle healing involved]

LUKE CHAPTER 10 [the good Samaritan]

34 And went to *him*, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave *them* to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

37 ... Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and **do thou likewise** [no miracle healing involved].

AS we experience or have to live with infirmity or sickness or disease, they are a type of the death that Jesus saved us from. And they are a picture in us of the suffering Jesus went through. In this sense, if we had perfect health and healing then we may not understand or be aware of the eternal death and suffering that was in store for you and I.

PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 3

10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

II TIMOTHY CHAPTER 2

12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with *him*: ...

I PETER CHAPTER 4

13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

I CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 1

29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

ROMANS CHAPTER 8

17 ... if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

18 ... the sufferings of this present time ...

22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

23 ... even we ourselves groan within ourselves, ...

PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 2

30 Because for the work of Christ he [Epaphroditus] was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, ...

PSALM 39

4 LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it *is*; *that* I may know how frail I *am*.

PSALM 119

67 Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.

71 *It is* good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.

The epistle of James does NOT talk about miracle healing.

JAMES CHAPTER 5

13 Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.

14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

15 And the prayer of faith shall **save the sick**, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

16 Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may **be healed**. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

...

20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

If you are afflicted then you are told to pray (with no promise of healing given).

If you are sick then ask elders (not someone with gifts of healing) to pray (with no promise of healing given), anointing with oil.

LUKE CHAPTER 10 [the good Samaritan]

34 And went to *him*, and **bound up his wounds, pouring in oil** and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

If the sick person says the prayer "of faith" at this time then the Lord shall (this is now a promise to) save the sick person, that is, save from hell. And the Lord shall raise the sick person up, which means, to eternal life in heaven. Compare :

JAMES 5:15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall **raise him up**; ...

JOHN 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I [Jesus] will **raise him up at the last day**.

PSALM 28

9 Save thy people, and bless thine inheritance: feed them also, and lift them up for ever.

PSALM 69

29 ... let thy salvation, O God, set me up on high.

If the sick person has committed sins (leading to hell), then they shall be forgiven (no longer leading to hell). In other words, the prayer of faith is a prayer of converting to Christ, not for healing. Prayer for healing infirmity was dealt with by the elders of the church. The prayer of faith is to save a soul from death (hell), and to forgive a multitude of sins. James' epistle repeats this and defines it :

JAMES 5:20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall **save a soul from death**, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

It is possible that the sins referred to here relate to the cause of the infirmity or sickness.

I CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 11

30 For this cause many *are* weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

PSALM 38

3 *There is* no soundness in my flesh because of thine anger; neither *is there any* rest in my bones because of my sin.

5 My wounds stink *and* are corrupt because of my foolishness.

It does not say the prayer of faith shall heal the sick. Faith will not bring about miracle healing and may not bring about natural healing every time, but faith shall or will save a sick person (or healthy person) from hell every time through Christ. Compare :

JAMES 5:15 And the prayer of **faith shall save** the sick, ...

EPHESIANS 2:8 For by grace are ye **saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

ROMANS CHAPTER 10

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord [prayer of faith] shall be saved.

The prayer of faith is especially needed at this time if the person is sick nigh unto death.

PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 2

27 For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; ...

To save the sick from death in hell, is the Lord providing health in the eternal sense.

PSALM 67

2 That thy way may be known upon earth, thy **saving health** among all nations.

PSALM 41

4 I said, LORD, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I have sinned against thee.

PSALM 119

50 This *is* my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me.

The epistle of James is also making a point to confess your faults one to another, and then pray one for another, that ye (plural) may be healed FROM YOUR FAULTS, not from any infirmity. This is the context of the sentence. Also note, the text does not say to confess your sins to one another. Sins are between you and the Lord and they need to be forgiven, not healed, by the Lord. Sins were dealt with by the prayer of faith.

PSALM 19

12 ... cleanse thou me from secret *faults*.

What happened to the gifts of healing?

I CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 12

8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the **gifts of healing** by the same Spirit;

10 To another the **working of miracles**; ...

I CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 13

28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

What Paul said about gifts of healing within the church in his first epistle to the Corinthians must be tethered to what he said about having infirmities in his second epistle to the Corinthians.

II CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 12

5 Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I [Paul] will not glory, but in mine infirmities.

9 ... Most gladly therefore will I **rather glory in my infirmities**, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore **I take pleasure in infirmities**, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

II CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 11

30 If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.

II CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 4

10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

11 For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

Reasons the gifts of healing have ceased.

¶ Lack of qualitative verifiable miracle healings outside of the natural healing process. If these miracle healings were truly happening then there would be greater evidence.

MATTHEW CHAPTER 9

8 But when the **multitudes saw it**, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.

LUKE CHAPTER 4

36 And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word *is* this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.

37 And the **fame of him went out into every place** of the country round about.

LUKE CHAPTER 17

14 And when he saw *them*, he said unto them, Go **shew yourselves** unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

¶ The gifts of healing claimed by some churches or individual faith healers are not expressed the same as what we read in THE BIBLE or not the same as THE BIBLE defines it. If a church does not already admit that their showing of the gifts of healing today are not the same as in THE BIBLE then they should do. If a church claims to pursue and have the gifts of healing because THE BIBLE says so but then does not also follow how THE BIBLE defines the expression of those gifts of healing then they cannot be trusted to have true or genuine gifts of healing because we use THE BIBLE to discern false teachings.

MATTHEW CHAPTER 11 [examples of miracle healings]

4 Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see:

5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

PSALM 33

4 For the word of the LORD *is* right; and **all his works are done in truth.**

¶ So-called miracle healings today depend on the faith of the recipient. If a person was not healed or became infirmed again then it can be blamed on a lack of faith whereas in THE BIBLE, miracle healings included raising the dead. How much faith can a dead person have? None, he is dead! Faith does not come into it.

MATTHEW CHAPTER 10

7 And as ye [twelve apostles] go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, **raise the dead**, cast out devils: freely ye have received, **freely give [unconditionally].**

MATTHEW CHAPTER 8

13 And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou [the centurion not his servant] hast believed, *so* be it done unto thee. And his servant [not the centurion] was healed in the selfsame hour.

MARK CHAPTER 6

5 And he [Jesus] could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed *them*.

6 And he marvelled because of **their unbelief.** ...

Ten lepers were healed, only one was said to have faith, but still the other nine remained healed.

LUKE CHAPTER 17

11 ¶ And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.

12 And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:

13 And they lifted up *their* voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.

14 And when he saw *them*, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,

16 And fell down on *his* face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

17 And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where *are* the nine?

18 There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

19 And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

Even the disciples seemed to lack having enough faith and they were the ones given the gifts of healing!

MARK CHAPTER 16

14 ¶ Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

¶ The gifts of healing were only associated with apostles and confirmed their authority was given by God.

II CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 12

12 Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

ACTS CHAPTER 2

42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread and in prayers.

43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

ACTS CHAPTER 5

12 ¶ And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; ...

I CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 2

4 And my [Apostle Paul's] speech and my preaching *was* not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

The gifts of healing were only associated with apostles for others to know and believe they were giving the word of God.

MARK CHAPTER 16

20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with *them*, and **confirming the word with signs** following. Amen.

ACTS CHAPTER 4

33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

ROMANS CHAPTER 15

19 Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

EPHESIANS CHAPTER 3

6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

HEBREWS CHAPTER 2

3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard *him*;

4 God also bearing *them* witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

Apostles had to be men who were witnesses of Jesus Christ.

ACTS CHAPTER 1

21 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

22 Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be **a witness with us** of his resurrection.

25 That he may take part of this ministry and **apostleship**, ...

I CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 9

AM I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? ...

GALATIANS CHAPTER 1

PAUL, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ [directly], and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)

The apostles are no more. Therefore the gifts of healing are no more.

Apostles were only the foundation of the church.

EPHESIANS CHAPTER 2

19 ... the household of God;

20 And are built upon the **foundation of the apostles** and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*;

Paul was the last apostle.

I CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 15

4 And that he [Christ] was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

8 And **last of all he was seen of me** [Paul] also, as of one born out of due time.

9 For I am the least of the apostles, ...

We now have the authority of the word of God with the completed canon of THE BIBLE. Our power is in the completed scriptures, not in gifts of healing.

ROMANS CHAPTER 1

16 For I am not ashamed of **the gospel of Christ**: for it is **the power of God** unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

I CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 1

18 For **the preaching of the cross** is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is **the power of God**.

¶ We are now instructed to appoint elders not apostles in every church. Healing is now through prayers and elders and medicines and physicians, not apostles with gifts of healing.

TITUS CHAPTER 1

5 ... that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and **ordain elders** in every city, as I had appointed thee:

JAMES CHAPTER 5

14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the **elders** of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

¶ Only two generations per stage of scripture canonisation are given the power to do miracles.

Moses + Joshua = The LAW.

EXODUS CHAPTER 14

21 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go *back* by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry *land*, and the waters were divided.

27 And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

JOSHUA CHAPTER 3

7 ¶ And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, *so* I will be with thee.

17 And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan.

Elijah + Elisha = The PROPHETS.

II KINGS CHAPTER 2

8 And Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped *it* together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground.

14 And he [Elisha] took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where *is* the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over.

15 And when the sons of the prophets which *were* to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him.

Jesus + Apostles = The NEW TESTAMENT.

And, the next generation:

MARK CHAPTER 8

12 And he sighed deeply in his spirit, and saith, Why doth this generation seek after a sign? verily I say unto you, **There shall no sign be given unto this generation.**

LUKE CHAPTER 11

29 ¶ And when the people were gathered thick together, he began to say, This is an evil generation: they seek a sign; and there shall no sign be given it, but the sign of Jonas the prophet.

30 For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation.

LUKE CHAPTER 16

31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

WHY teach this?

WHY not just allow people to go and try a church for miracle healing?

BECAUSE false healing comes with false beliefs with false Bible versions with possibly also false gospels of salvation.

AND the other familiar approach to this scenario is for a Christian to take the often detrimental first step of withholding visits to a physician and withholding taking medicines for the sake of proving their faith for a miracle healing to occur, to the possible worsening of the patient.

MATTHEW CHAPTER 7

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, **ye that work iniquity**.

There is a person in the prophetic timeline who will have miracle gifts and that is the Antichrist. Just because someone performs a miracle healing does not mean it is from God.

II THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 2

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

9 *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.

MATTHEW CHAPTER 24

24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall **deceive** the very elect.

25 Behold, I have told you before.

MARK CHAPTER 13

22 For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to **seduce**, if *it were* possible, even the elect.

23 But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.