

**DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE**  
**DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**  
**SPIRITUAL GIFTS—PART 6- GIFTS OF HEALING**

**WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT DIVINE HEALING:**

The Word of God teaches divine healing but opposes the practices we see of present day so-called divine healers! God is omnipotent and His power extends to His ability to heal the physical body. He can heal ANY ONE at ANY TIME in ANY WAY He wills!

The issue is not, "*Can God heal?*" but rather, "*Are the Gifts of Healing operational today?*" Let's consider some things:

**I. THE HEALING MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST:**

(e.g. *Matthew 4:23-24*)

The Gospels record 18 specific miracles of healing by the Lord Jesus Christ. A careful study of these reveals the following facts:

1. Christ healed people where He found them—(i.e. No special healing meetings were ever conducted.)
2. Christ healed ALL manner of sickness—No screening process employed to eliminate the hard cases.
3. Christ's healings were COMPLETE—No failures, no relapses, and no convalescence.
4. Christ's healings were free of charge—No offerings, no books, no handkerchiefs, no gimmicks.
5. Christ at times discouraged testimonies - *Mark 7:36*.
6. Christ's healing ministry was related to Israel.  
(Signs were for Israel and healing is a sign gift.)
7. Those He healed were generally either unsaved, or were saved at the same moment.

**II. HEALING IS ONE OF THE "SIGN GIFTS:"**

Healing is listed with tongues in *Mark 16:17-18*. As seen previously, the sign gifts were given to confirm or authenticate the message and the messenger of God. Because healing is a sign gift, it was transitory until the New Testament Word was complete and therefore not available for today.

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**III. CONTINUING PHYSICAL HEALING IS NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THE ATONEMENT:**

*Matthew 8:16-17* is stated to be the fulfillment of the prophecy in *Isaiah 53:5*. The healing we receive today is soul-healing—i.e. Salvation by grace through faith in Christ! (*1 Peter 2:24*)

**IV. DOES GOD HEAL PHYSICALLY TODAY?**

God not only CAN, but most certainly DOES heal the physical bodies of people today. Clearly, however, the criterion is, "*If it be Thy will.*"

**A. Many Great Christians Were NOT Healed, So It Is Not Always God's Will To Heal.**

1. Paul — *2 Corinthians 12:8-9*.
2. Epaphroditus — *Philippians 2:25-30*.
3. Timothy — *1 Timothy 5:23*.
4. Trophimus — *2 Timothy 4:20*.

**B. Clear Instructions Are Given For Whenever Church Members Fall Sick. (*James 5:13-15*)**

**V. ALL TRUE HEALING IS DIVINE HEALING:**

The natural processes of our bodies were created by God. Even the healing of a cut is marvelous! God is the one Who gives wisdom to men (even doctors) whom He uses for His purposes!

**VI. SATAN IS ALSO ABLE TO WORK MIRACLES:**

This fact was also covered previously. Note that Satan works through men: (e.g. Simon the Sorcerer in *Acts 8:9-11*)

(Also see *Matthew 24:4-5; Romans 16:17-18; Revelation 13:14*)