

# 40 Days *WITH* the HOLY SPIRIT

## Small Group Curriculum

---

### Session Five THE POWER GIFTS (B)

#### The Healing Ministry in the Local Church

*James 5:14-16 (nkjv)* “Is anyone among you sick? 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. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

- 1. Those who are sick should call for the elders of the church to pray for them.**
  - The sick person is responsible to contact the elders and ask them to pray for them.
  - It is the responsibility of the elders/pastors in the church to make sure they respond.
- 2. The elders are to anoint the sick person with oil**
  - They originally used olive oil. There is no medical or therapeutic power in the oil.
  - The oil is a symbolic expression of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.  
*(1 Samuel 10:1-3; 16:13; Isaiah 61:1)*
  - The oil is applied *in the Name of the Lord*. The elders enforcing the power that lies in the Name of Jesus and using their delegated authority of Jesus over sickness.
- 3. The elders are to pray the ‘prayer of faith’ in the Name of Jesus.**
  - Prayer is the action, “*the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up ... the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*”
  - Faith is the key. The prayer itself is fuelled with faith!

“...without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists...” **Hebrews 11:6a**

- Where there was unbelief even Jesus could do little.  
“He could not do any miracles there, except lay His hands on a few sick people and heal them. He was amazed at their **lack of faith**...” **Mark 6:5-6a**
- Notice there is a responsibility upon the person praying to be in a ‘right standing’ relationship with the Lord. *The prayer of a **righteous person** is powerful and effective. (niv)*

#### 4. The Confession of Sins

...If they have **sinned**, they will be **forgiven**. Therefore **confess your sins to each other** and pray for each other so that you may be healed... **James 5:15-16**

- Our prayers can be weakened if we have unresolved issues with another person.  
**Mark 11:25-26 (niv)** “whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. **26:** But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.” (cf: Matthew 5:23-24)

James describes the normal practise for healing in every local church.

1. The sick person is to call for the elders to pray.
2. The elders/pastors are to anoint with oil and to pray a prayer of faith
3. The Lord is the One who heals.

## The Gifts of Healing

**1 Corinthians 12:9 (nkjv)** ...to another faith by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healings** by the same Spirit...

A gift of healing has special qualities about it which are different from the ‘typical healing ministry’ that applies in the Church – as discussed.

The general provision for healing that God has placed within the Church has specific instructions that the believer and the leaders are expected to follow.

With a gift of healing, however, it seems there is little the sick person has to do except receive it. Such healing gifts really emphasise the grace of God towards us.

The gifts of healing are many. It is not the ‘healing gift’ rather the ‘gifts of healing.’ Suggesting that;

### 1. The Gifts of Healing are not permanent endowments

A gift of healing is given to heal someone who is sick. When the healing is accomplished the gift of healing has been used. Each healing gift is given for each particular occasion.

Therefore, no one can say I have the permanent spiritual ‘gift of Healing’, although someone may be used of the Holy Spirit on a number of occasions for a gift of healing to flow.

### 2. Gifts of healing and the Grace of God

The word gift here in the original Gk means ‘a gift freely given’ with no strings attached.’

This explains why the ministry of healing in the church which James describes, and the gifts of healing which Paul mentions in **1 Corinthians 12** are not exactly the same.

There are, of course, some common factors. Both depend on faith. Both are supernatural. Both are brought about by the gracious power of God. But there are some differences too.

In the case of the healing ministry within the church, there is a responsibility on the part of the sick person to seek prayer from the elders.

In the case of the gifts of healing, however, there is little responsibility involved on the part of the sick person. The Holy Spirit simply gives a free, generous, unconditional gift of healing.

## DISCUSSION

- Ask questions for clarification or provide comments from the teaching and discuss as a group.
- Share with your group examples of your own experience with healing.
- As a group, you may wish to discuss some of the points in the 'Further Study' section below to generate further discussion.

## PRAYER

Please take time before you finish your discussion to pray for any needs that those in your group may have and in particular those who need healing.

## FURTHER STUDY

### The Gifts of Healing are Varied

The particular way or method the Holy Spirit uses can vary from person to person.

The methodology is only as important as it is right for the occasion and the person concerned. Often the Lord will use a uniqueness of our personality.

### Some Examples in the Bible

1. Through a brass snake: *Numbers 21:8-9*
2. Through physical body contact: *1 Kings 17:21-22; 2 Kings 4:34-35*
3. Immersion in water: *2 Kings 5:14*
4. Contact with the bones of a dead prophet: *2 Kings 13:20-21*
5. A word: *Matthew 8:8; Acts 3:6*
6. A touch: *Matthew 8:15*
7. Laying on of hands: *Mark 16:18; Acts 28:8*
8. People were healed in the streets by Peters shadow: *Acts 5:15*
9. Handkerchiefs and Cloths prayed over by Paul brought healing: *Acts 19:11-12*
10. An embrace: *Acts 20:10*
11. Prayer and anointing of oil: *James 5:14-15*
12. Jesus spat in the dirt, made clay and healed a man's blind eyes: *John 9:6*

The lesson is that we need to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit, so we are free to use the approach or method He reveals that assist in the gift of healing being successful.