

HEALING

The Spirit-given ability to intervene in a supernatural way as an instrument to restore health or wholeness. This gift can be used to promote inner healing given that physical illness is often related to emotional or spiritual pain or abuse. The gift of healing can be used, for example, when visiting the sick, praying with others, counseling, encouraging others to believe that God is able and willing to heal supernaturally, and encouraging emotional and spiritual wholeness.

CHARACTERISTICS

1. The ability to pray with confidence for someone who is hurting or ill and to intervene in a supernatural way as an instrument for healing.
2. The ability to discern whether an illness is purely physical or stems from an emotional or spiritual imbalance.
3. Inspires others to pray for and to expect healing.
4. Unafraid to pray for healing, even though they know only God decides who will be healed. They do not stake their self-worth or the validity of their gift on whether those they pray for are healed.
5. Willingness to spend time in prayer to receive guidance about who to pray for and how to pray.
6. A concern for those with emotional problems and heartaches. Many with the gift of healing focus more on emotional healing than on physical healing.

CAUTIONS

1. Feeling that God will heal everyone every time. The rationale of many involved in the ministry of healing is that God either heals or He does not.
2. Taking it personally when someone is not healed. Believing it is always God's will to heal. When He chooses not to, it must be because their faith was not strong enough.
3. Seeking monetary or other rewards. Sick, injured or hurting people will pay, or do almost anything to have even the remotest chance to be restored to health and wholeness. Those involved in a healing ministry may be tempted to take advantage of them by seeking money, recognition or gifts.
4. Relying on certain methods when praying for the sick, trusting in techniques rather than in The Healer. It is tempting to become superstitious, believing that the same things must be used each time. For example, laying on hands, having two or more to agree, and anointing with oil. These methods are described in the Bible, but are never presented as techniques that must be used to gain God's favor.
5. Failing to sense when it is inappropriate or not God's will to pray a person to be healed.
6. Blaming those who are not healed, believing their problems are self-inflicted due to sin in their life or because they are refusing to learn a lesson. This can result in those who are suffering hardening their hearts toward such a God. *Luke 13:2-5; John 9:1-3*