

## Chapter 22

### **GIFTS OF HEALING**

“... to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit” (I Corinthians 12:9)

1. **Healing through personal prayer**
  2. **Healing through the laying of hands**
  3. **Healing through the command of faith**
  4. **Healing through the spoken word**
  5. **Healing through an anointed cloth**
  6. **Healing through performing an act of faith**
  7. **Healing by the anointing of the elders**
- 

## Chapter 23

### **THE VARIOUS HEALING GIFTS**

Different gifts of healings are needed for the different kinds of sicknesses.

#### **1. Casting out blind, deaf, and mute spirits**

(Healing the blind man in Peru) He usually needs to be led out of the despair of his spirit first. But, as I observed the eager expression on the face of this man, I perceived that he had faith to be healed.

#### **2. Casting out the more powerful devils**

...nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting. (Matthew 17:19-21)

Jesus by healing the child showed that there was no reason for their failure as far as God's will was concerned.

An evil spirit cannot take possession of just anyone. The door must be opened in some way.

They realized that more than shouting is required to cast out an evil spirit; it requires authority.

#### **3. General healing of the sick.**

Not all sickness is caused by demonic spirits, although we may correctly say that all disease directly or indirectly comes from Satan (Acts 10:38). Take for example Job's boils. They were not caused by demonic spirits, although we are told they indirectly originated from Satan (Job 2:7).

Minute virus (so small it may be a living molecule) in some way penetrates the cells and causes them to act insanely. They begin to multiply widely without plan or design.

#### **4. Creative Miracles**

A creative miracle is needed besides healing.

John 9 tells us of a man who was not afflicted with diseased eyes, but who was born blind. This was a different situation from those who had lost sight later in life, and a creative miracle was required to heal him. The man who was healed knew that a creative work had been done, and told the Pharisees, “Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind” (John 9:32). Creative healing miracles verge on the gift of working miracles, and will be given further consideration in chapter 26.

I told him God would heal him, but his faith needed to grow until it could take hold of the promise for the needed miracle.

We may add further that faith must reach certain intensity for the more powerful gifts of healing to come into operation. God never denies persistent faith.

#### **5. Ministering with healing power**

In many cases of sickness, all that is needed is for divine power to destroy the disease agent, and then the body’s natural restorative powers may bring a rapid return to health.

Healing virtue flowing. Jesus Himself confirmed this when He said, “I perceived power going out from Me” (Luke 8:46). The “healing virtue” flowed into his clothes, and whoever touched the hem of His garment was made whole (Mark 6:56).

This particular kind of healing also appeared in the ministry of the Apostle Paul (Acts 19:11,12)

Healing is by degree, based on two conditions.  
First, the degree of healing virtue administered;  
Second, the degree of faith that gives action and  
Power to the virtue administered – Dr. John G. Lake

The Spirit said, “I have heard your prayers, I have seen your tears. You are now baptized in the Holy Spirit.” Then currents of power began to rush through my being from the crown of my head to the soles of my feet.

When Lake received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, he received, as his subsequent ministry proved, powerful gifts of healing.

#### **6. Raising the dead**

Raising the dead is associated with the ministry of healing, but with the added consideration that the person’s spirit must be recalled to the body.

Lazarus – his raising was indeed a miracle. It was, in fact, proof of Christ’s resurrection power (John 11:23-25)

#### **7. Healing from drug addiction**

## **8. Other gifts of healing**

God is able to heal anyone of anything, yet, it is plain that the Church has not fully entered into a ministry that brings consistent deliverance for those so seriously afflicted.

---

### **Chapter 24**

## **MINISTERING IN THE HEALING GIFTS**

### **Healing Anybody, Anytime?**

In Christ own city of Nazareth, “He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them” (Mark 6:5).

As someone has wisely said, “all sicknesses can be healed, but not all sick people can be healed.”

### **Operating in the Supernatural Realm**

Jesus reached out His hand and, “touched him, saying, ‘I am willing: be cleansed’” (Matthew 8:3)

### **Healing at a Distance**

Other people will believe when the Word is spoken for their deliverance.

But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. (Matthew 8:8-9)

Jesus, marveling at the centurion’s faith, spoke the word, and “his servant was healed that same hour” (Matthew 8:13).

The gifts of healing will operate whenever faith makes a real contact, regardless of time and distance.

### **Cooperation and Faith of the Sick Person**

Faith is an act. When about to minister to a sick person, Jesus would often tell them to put their faith into action. Thus, He said to the man sick with palsy, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house” (Matthew 9:6).

To the woman who touched the hem of His garment, Jesus said, “Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well” (Matthew 9:22).

To the blind man who asked for healing, He said, “According to your faith let it be to you” (Matthew 9:29).

To the man with the withered hand, Christ said, “Stretch out your hand” (Matthew 12:13). This was a physical impossibility; yet when he made the effort, his hand was healed.

When the 10 lepers asked Jesus for healing, He commanded them to go show themselves to the priest. “And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed” (Luke 17:14).

The examples make it clear that the gifts of healings are not designed to operate independently of the sick person's faith. They are required to cooperate. Those who minister gifts of healing should seek to secure some physical act of faith from the person who comes for healing.

### **Healing Ground**

People need to get on healing ground to be able to retain their healing.

The Canaanite woman (Matthew 15:22-28) who came to Christ to obtain deliverance for her demon-possessed daughter, was not on healing ground.

The woman rose to the occasion. In her great humility, she was willing to be included with the dogs, and gave her amazing reply, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their master's table" (Matthew 15:27)

### **Prayer and Fasting**

Jesus' Words reveal that prayer and fasting are sometimes required even of those who have gifts of healings, in order to achieve deliverance over the more powerful demons.

### **Always Instantaneous?**

He asked him if he saw something, and he looked up and said, "I see men like trees, walking." Then he put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly (Mark 8:22-25).

### **Not Praying Indiscriminately**

He had no opportunity at Bethesda to lay the proper foundation of faith. The people wanted healing but their attention was not on the One Who had come into their midst. Instead, it was focused on the water in the pool.

---

## **Chapter 25**

### **THE WORKING OF MIRACLES**

To another the working of miracles ... (1 Corinthians 12:10)

This gift has a wide scope of operation. At one end of the spectrum it merges with the gifts of healing. Certain healings that involve creative action are true miracles. At the other end are miraculous interventions in the very course of nature – such as breaking droughts, overruling gravity, rolling back the sea and making the sun stand still.

The gift of working miracles involves various kinds of supernatural phenomena, such as raising the dead, miracles of supply, miraculous delivering of God's people and invoking special judgment against wicked people or nations.

### **Not to Amuse or Entertain**

It is important to understand that miracles are never given for the purpose of amazing, astounding, amusing or entertaining. They have a much more serious purpose that is compatible with God's dignity and majesty.

God's Use of Natural Means

While miracle is entirely supernatural in its source, it is in harmony with divine wisdom to use natural means in connection with the miracle.

“That day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened” (Genesis 7:11).

### **Signs, Wonders and Various Miracles**

God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will? (Hebrew 2:4).

The various kinds of miracles tend to fall into distinct classifications. We can satisfy most of the miracles into the following groups:

1. Miracle of supply
2. Raising the dead
3. Miracles of judgment
4. Miracles of deliverance
5. Miracles that overrule nature

For example, in certain cases the divine manifestation may be partly a miracle and partly a healing. There are also unusual or unique miracles that have happened only once, or that occur very rarely.

One of the modern illustrations of unique miracle is the case of Ronnie Coyne.

### **The Miracle of the Plastic Eye**

#### **The Preservation of Clothing**

“And I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn out on your feet” (Deuteronomy 29:5).

The miracle of the preservation of the Israelites’ clothing is one of the most interesting and unique miracles, but is rarely mentioned or discussed.

God had foreseen this need, and through a continuous miracle, He preserved their garments and shoes during the 40 years in the wilderness.

#### **The Miracle of the Dry and Wet Fleeces**

Judges 6:36 – 40

This war is very special miracle – a sign to Gideon that God would be with him in his battle against the Midianites. Many people seek to imitate Gideon by also putting out “fleeces.” Sometimes they ask for a sign as to whether they should or should not do a thing which they already know is not God’s will. That was the case with Balaam. This hireling prophet had already been informed by the Lord that he should not go with Balak. Yet he asked again, like a spoiled child, for permission to go.

## **Miracle of the Donkey that Talked**

Numbers 22:22 – 23; 28 – 31

## **The Confusion of Tongues**

On the Day of Pentecost, the 120 disciples in the Upper Room spoke in other languages – in the languages of 17 different nations – praising and blessing God.

Genesis 11:7-9

...take place through a human agent, as we see in the laying on of hands:

And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied (Acts 19:6).

---

## **Chapter 26**

### **RAISING THE DEAD**

The act of raising the dead is related to, yet distinct from, the operation of the gifts of healings. In restoring life to one who has died, more than a healing miracle is required. The spirit of the departed must return to the body. Just as God determines who comes into the world, it is also His prerogative to decide whether a spirit should return once it has departed.

Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see 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” (Matthew 11:4,5).

He was in the prime of life at the time of his death, but it was evidently not God’s will for the prophet to be raised from the dead.

Where corruption of the body has already set in, a high type of miracles is necessary. Jesus raised Lazarus who had been dead four days. Decay was already so far advanced (John 11:39) that the miracle was in reality a type of resurrection (John 11:23-26).

### **The Raising of the Widow’s Son by Elijah (I Kings 17:9 – 24)**

The first instance in the Bible describes in detail, is the case of Elijah raising the widow’s son.

1. He took the boy away from his mother; though she had faith, it was not the faith necessary to raise the dead. Moreover, overwhelming grief hinders the faith one has. Hysterical attempts to get prayers answered are rarely effective. We do not invoke divine power through frantic desperation. Conscious of this, Elijah wanted to get alone with God.
2. Elijah began to reason with God. Why did He allow this to happen? He apparently did not realize that the devil has the power of death, a fact that has been made clear in the Church Age.

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He himself likewise shared in the same, that through death he might destroy him who had the power of death, that is the devil (Hebrews 2:14).

3. Elijah was man of action. After complaining to God, he stretched himself on the child and prayed, “O LORD my God, I pray, let this child’s soul come back to him” (I Kings 17:21). Elijah knew that a peculiar anointing rested upon him, and that this power, if it could be released, was able to bring the boy back to life. God did not disappoint the prophet’s great faith. The boy’s spirit returned and he lived again. This miracle proved to the widow that Elijah was indeed a man of God.

Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now by this I know that you are a man of God, and that the Word of the LORD in your mouth is the truth” (I Kings 17:24).

### **Raising the Shunammite Woman’s Son**

His mother was a woman of action. She had her animal saddled and rode to the man of God to tell him what had happened. This is where her great faith shows.

1. First, he sent Gehazi ahead with his staff. This suggests that a material object might absorb and retain a tangible part of the divine anointing. The staff, which had been in contact with Elisha, might carry with it sufficient healing virtue to restore the boy to life (see Acts 19:11, 12).
2. Elisha, upon arriving at the house, went at once to the room where the boy had been laid. Elisha shut himself away from the mother’s grief. Then he prayed to the Lord Since no promise had been given for the general raising of the dead in that age, it would seem that in this, as well as in other cases, the mind of God needed to be learned before attempting a miracle of this nature.
3. Elisha also laid upon the dead child, just as Elijah had done:

And he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he stretched himself out on the child, and the flesh of the child became warm (II Kings 4:34).

Here is another demonstration of the impartation of divine power through direct physical contact. Elisha prayed to the Lord for the child’s spirit to return to him. The gift of faith and gift of miracles were probably working in unison as “the flesh of the child became warm.”

### **Child Restored to Life in Mexico**

At the moment, I was praying for a long line of people. My interpreter, seeing that the people were excited, interrupted to tell me that a serious case had just been brought in, and asked if I would pray for it. I did not understand that the child was dead. But when I prayed for the child, who had been very still, it suddenly began to show movement. I did not learn until a few minutes later why such excitement followed in the congregation – the Lord had brought back to life a child that was dead.

## **Raising a Widow of Nain's Son (Luke 7:11-16)**

Since Jesus is the resurrection and the life (John 11:25), it is fitting that during His ministry, He should demonstrate His power over death, giving authenticity to His claims.

Let us notice what occurred when Jesus raised the widow of Nain's son – the first time He raised the dead.

1. The dead person was a youth, for Jesus addressed him as a “young man.” Unless there is some special reason, it is the will of God for His people to live out their natural life span. This life is a school to prepare us for the world to come.
2. The young man's mother was a widow. He was an only son, and likely her only means of support.
3. Jesus touched the bier and the dead man sat up and began to speak.

As far as we know, Jesus had never met the widow before. He first saw her as she followed the funeral procession with her head bowed in grief. He had been moved with compassion over the plight of the sorrowing widow who was left alone and without help. By raising the dead boy, God would receive glory.

Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has risen up among us”; and, “God has visited His people” (Luke 7:16).

## **The Miracle of Thomas Welch**

Compassion was certainly the reason for rising Thomas Welch from death, after he suffered a fatal accident while working on a trestle in a mountain village. There was nothing he had done for which he should have received mercy. Reared as an unbeliever, he had heard the gospel message before the accident but according to his own testimony, “just couldn't believe it.”

One day, he was working on a high trestle 55 feet above the ground. He lost his footing and fell over backward, striking the jutting cross-members on the way down. His body was battered, bones were broken, and his skull was fractured. For a period of 20 minutes, he lay in a pool of dirty engine water.

Jesus turned and his compassionate gaze fell upon Thomas. At that moment, Thomas came back to life.

What had happened? Mrs. Finn Brocke, a Christian lady whose husband was an engineer at the lumber camp, had taken a deep interest in the orphan boy. She was like a mother to him, and when the news of the accident reached her, she hurried to him. All she could think of was to pray that the Lord would not let him go out of this world in his unsaved condition. The great compassion that flooded her heart gave her faith for a mighty miracle, and Thomas came back to life.



At the end of the four days, the miracle was complete. It was fully documented and amazed the physicians, as well as hundreds of others who knew about the accident. Every broken bone had been healed, and the young man went to church to testify about what God had done for him.

### **Raising Jairus' Daughter (Luke 8:41-56)**

On the way to his home, the woman with the issue of blood touched the hem of Jesus' garment and the procession came to a halt. The father then experienced the agony of delay. While his daughter was at the point of death, this woman touched Jesus' garment and was healed. The woman testified about her healing, and Christ used her faith as an object lesson for His listeners. The precious moments were slipping away – time was running out of Jairus' home.

We notice also that the citizens of this city had been very receptive to the message of the Lord. We are told that “the multitude welcomed Him, for they were all waiting for Him. (Luke 8:40).

When the messenger announced that the girl had died, he said there was no purpose in troubling the Master any further. But Jesus said, “Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well” (Luke 8:50).

Christ dismissed everyone from the room except Peter, James, John and the parents. Even a little unbelief can hinder a miracle like raising the dead.

### **Raising Lazarus (John 11)**

The raising of Lazarus from the dead stands out above all other cases recorded in the Bible, except for the resurrection of Christ Himself. We are specifically informed that he had been dead four days.

Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:23-26)

There were many significant circumstances involved in raising Lazarus which throw light on this type of miracle.

1. Lazarus' family was devoted to the Lord.
2. Jesus said that this event was “for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it” (John 11:4)
3. Before performing the miracle, the Lord drew forth a confession of faith.
4. Then came the prayer of Christ at the grave that preceded the raising of Lazarus. When He healed the sick, we have no record that Jesus prayed individually for them. Instead, He commanded the sick person to be healed, and the work was done.

But in this case, Jesus paused to thank God for what was about to be done. Why did He do this? The people needed to know that what He was about to do was a work of God, not of man (John 11:42). Jesus said in John 5:19, 20 that all the miracles He performed were the work of His Father.

5. Then came the word of command. In a loud voice, Jesus cried, "Lazarus, come forth!" (John 11:43).

In response to His command, the decaying corpse felt the impact of life-giving power! A billion cells felt the resurrection of life! The decomposing elements were chemically changed and reversed from the chaotic conditions of death to their normal arrangement. The spirit of Lazarus returned to his body and heard the command to come forth. The dead arose, hampered only by the grave clothes which were quickly removed by eager friends.

### **Bringing a Sister Back to Life**

Just a few weeks before, my wife had been healed when almost dead. Prior to that, my brother had been healed, after having been an invalid for 22 years. A short time before that, my older sister, with five cancers in the breast, who had been operated on five times and given up to die, was healed. As I looked at this sister, I said, "O God, this is not your will. I cannot accept it! It is the work of the devil and darkness. It is the devil who has the power of death.

I went to the phone, called Western Union and told them I wanted to get a telegram through to Doctor Dowie with an answer back as quickly as possible. I sent this write: "My sister has apparently died, but my spirit will not let her go. I believe if you will pray, God will heal her."

I received this answer back: "Hold on to God. I am praying. She will live."

I prayed, "This is of hell, it cannot be, it will not be. In the name of Jesus Christ, I abolish this death and sickness, and she shall live."

Five days later, she came to father's home and the Lake family sat down to Christmas dinner, the first time in their lives when they all were well.

### **Raising Dorcas (Acts 9:36-43)**

In the Apostolic Church, there was a woman named Dorcas who was noted for her unselfishness and devotion to good deeds and works. Dorcas became sick and died. The grieving Church felt that they could not afford to lose such a worthy worker. Why should she be cut off in the middle of her years, when they needed her so badly? Jesus has raised certain people from the dead, and had promised that His disciples would do the same (Matthew 10:8).

When Peter arrived, the people were weeping and "showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them (Acts 9:39). He was apparently impressed by their recital of virtues of this woman of God, and his faith was challenged to believe God for a miracle. However, the weeping and grieving were not going to change things. As Christ did at the home of Jairus, Peter sent out the mourners. Then he knelt down and prayed.

Convinced that God would perform a miracle, he turned to the body and gave the command, “Tabitha, arise” (Acts 9:40). Dorcas opened her eyes and Peter helped her get up. He then called the saints and presented her alive (Acts 9:41). This miracle caused a stir throughout the countryside, and many were converted to Christ. “and it became known throughout all Joppa; and many believed on the Lord (Acts 9:42)

### **Eutychus Raised From the Dead (Acts 20:7-12)**

This incident is especially interesting, since it shows how God grants extraordinary miracles when the need arises. Paul may have felt somewhat responsible for the young man’s death, and therefore, believed that God would answer his prayer and restore him to life – he was not disappointed.