

## 7. How does God heal?

### Spiritual Gifts

Best & David, *Kingdom II*, 58-70; Wimber, *Power Healing*, 199-206.

1. **What are 'Spiritual Gifts'?**
  - **Spiritual Gifts are tools from God**
  - **'Spiritual Gift' comes from two words:**
    - *Charismata*, meaning 'gift' (1 Corinthians 1 and 12-14)
    - *Pneumatica*, meaning 'spirituals' (1 Corinthians 12:1)
  - **Types of Spiritual Gifts**
    - Difficult to categorise
    - Biblical lists are not inclusive, but illustrative
  - **Gifts are not rewards**
    - Not signs of maturity (see Corinthians!)
    - Not 'rewards' from God
  - **A normal part of the NT experience**
    - Jesus displayed many Spiritual Gifts
    - Disciples followed His example
    - Epistles indicate using gifts was a normal part of the early church
    - Spiritual Gifts have been present all throughout Church history, up to our own experience
    - Scripture does not support dispensationalism
  
2. **Using the Tools**
  - **Using gifts when the Church is gathered – 1 Corinthians 12-14**
    - Gifts are not restricted (1 Cor. 12:4-6)
    - Gifts given by ONE Spirit (1 Cor. 12:7-11)

- Gives given to ONE body (the Church) (1 Cor. 12:13)
- Love must underpin every action (1 Cor. 13)
- Desire all gifts, especially Prophecy (1 Cor. 14:1)
- Gifts are given to edify and build up the Church (1 Cor. 14:19)
- Sometimes called 'gracelets'

▪ **Gifts as a regular part of a believer's experience – Romans 12**

- Gifts as special ministries
- Not limited in number, but will vary from person to person

▪ **Work those gifts! – 1 Timothy 4:14**

- Gifts can be neglected
- Gifts can be built up over time

▪ **Situational anointing vs. ministry**

▪ **All gifts rest on the same foundation:**

- Grace
- Faith
- Love

3. **Spiritual Empowering**

▪ **What is 'empowered'?**

- In OT, specific people empowered
- In NT, everyone empowered!

- **Are you 'baptized by the Spirit'?**
  - Not a technical term in Greek, but a metaphor
    - To submerge, like dyeing a cloth
    - To be overwhelmed, like a sinking boat
  - Luke: 'overwhelmed by the Spirit's presence and power' – visible signs
  - Paul: Spirit establishes new covenant when person becomes a follower of Jesus

4. **Using Spiritual Gifts when Praying for the Sick**

- **Use as many gifts as God gives you**
- **Don't get hung up on issues of gifting, gracelets, empowering, etc.**
- **Spiritual Gifts are tools for you from God to help advance the Kingdom**
- **You may experience many different kinds of gifts in different situations**
- **Don't compare yourself to other believers**
- **Seek and pray for the gifts, especially prophecy**
- **Your greatest gift is love!**