

MIRACULOUS DIVINE HEALING

I Cor. 12:9

Introduction:

- A. "Miraculous Divine Healing" has taken some strange turns in my lifetime.
 - 1. Oral Roberts from tent to TV, from laying on hands, to hospital.
 - 2. M.D.'s turning to faith healer. (Healing p. 119).
- B. "Miraculous Divine Healing" need to be examined.
 - 1. Because of widespread interest in it.
 - 2. Because millions are being spend on it.
 - 3. Because of what the Bible has to say about it.
- C. "Miraculous Divine Healing" will be examined in this lesson by asking and answering some important questions:

Discussion:

I. What Is The Issue Involved In This Question?

- A. It is not:
 - 1. Does God heal. He does, but by what means?
 - 2. Has God ever used men to perform miracles of healing? He has.
 - 3. Does God still have the power to perform such miracles? He does.
 - 4. Does God hear and answer prayers on behalf of the sick? He does.
- B. It is: Does God heal today in a miraculous fashion?

II. Has anyone ever been able to perform Miracles of Healing?

- A. Jesus did. (Matt. 4:23,24; 9:35)
- B. Jesus's Apostles did.
 - 1. The twelve during limited commission. (Matt. 10:1,8)
 - 2. The apostles during great commission. (Mark 16:15-18).
 - 3. Paul (Acts 14:3, 8-11)
- C. Certain contemporaries of the Apostles. (1 Cor. 14:9).

III. What were some outstanding features of New Testament Miracles of Healing?

- A. The Success rate.
 - 1. Of Jesus. (Matt. 4:23,24) - Note the "all's".
 - 2. Of Apostles. (Matt. 10:1; Acts 5:16).
- B. The instant results. (Mk. 5:29; Lk. 8:47). (cf. Chapalear's photographic mind)
- C. The complete results. No relaps nor mere remissions.

IV. What was the purpose of New Testament Miracles of Healing.

- A. To confirm the diety of Christ.
 - 1. All His signs given to produce faith in his diety. (John 20:30,31).
 - 2. He used healing to show his diety - power to forgive sins. (Matt. 9:1-8).
 - 3. He pointed to healing as sign of his diety. (Luke 7:18-22).
- B. To confirm word of Apostles and prophets. (Mk. 16:17,18).

V. How do we know that men cannot do the same things today?

- A. The means by which men (other than Jesus and Apostles) received this power is no longer present today, i.e., the laying on of Apostle's hands.
 - 1. Paul needed to be present to impart spiritual gift to Romans (Cf. Rom. 1:11).
 - 2. Phillip could not impart the power, only Apostles. (Acts 8:6,14-19).
 - 3. Paul laid hands on those at Ephesus. (Acts 19:6).
- B. The duration of such spiritual gifts set by the Scriptures. (1 Cor. 13:8-13).
 - 1. "Does not say gift of healing ceased?" Paul uses partial list for whole. (cf. vss. 1-2)
 - 2. "That which is perfect" is completeness of revelation. (Cf. 400 years between the Testaments)

VI. How do we account for the apparent success of modern faith healers?

- A. Psychosomatic illnesses - power of suggestion.
- B. Incomplete diagnosis and follow up.
- C. Screening and fakery.
- D. Illnesses that come and go.
- E. Illnesses that would take care of itself.

VII. What About Jas. 5:14-16?

- A. The possibilities.
 - 1. Elder's had miraculous power by laying on of apostles hands.
 - 2. Healing not miraculous but by providential means.
 - 3. Two words for "sick" - see Vine's definitions.
- B. Does not fit modern faith healer's pattern.
 - 1. Sick called for elder - F. Healers calls for sick to come to him.
 - 2. Elders - F. Healers not elders.

Conclusion:

- A. God has worked miracles of healing through men.
- B. No evidence of it today, but evidence to the contrary.