

Mark 16:15–18 (ESV) ¹⁵ And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸ they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

1 Corinthians 12:7–11 (ESV) ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, ... ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit... ¹¹ All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apports to each one individually as he wills.

A. The Gift of Faith

1 Corinthians 12:9 (ESV) ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,

What did Paul mean by “gift of faith”? A lot of Christians read over this and assume this is talking about saving faith.

Scripture talks of faith in **THREE primary ways**: (All three require God’s grace!)

1. Saving Faith – trusting in the sacrifice of Jesus to save

- **Ephesians 2:8–9 (ESV)** *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*
- **Romans 4:5 (ESV)** ⁵ *And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,*
- **NOTES: James 2:14–26 (ESV)** ¹⁴ *What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ...* ²⁶ *For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.*
 - “Faith” vs. “Dead Faith”: When James asks, “Can such faith save him?” (James 2:14), the grammatical structure in the Greek implies a negative answer: *No, that kind of faith cannot save him.*
 - **False / Intellectual Faith (“Dead Faith”)**: This is mere intellectual assent or verbal agreement with correct doctrine. James notes in James 2:19 that even demons have this kind of “faith”—they believe God is one and shudder, but they are not saved. A claim to faith that produces zero life change, zero obedience, and zero love is what James calls “dead” (v. 17) and incapable of saving anyone.
 - **Genuine Saving Faith (“Living Faith”)**: Genuine saving faith is a heart-level surrender to God that naturally and inevitably produces visible fruit (works). Works do not earn salvation; rather, they show that the faith is real and alive.
- *More content on FAITH to be released on the Ready Soles Podcast.*

2. Sanctifying Faith – day by day trust

- **Colossians 2:6–7 (ESV)** *Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.*
- **Galatians 2:20 (ESV)** *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*
- **Overcoming Habitual Sin or Character Traits**: Lust, anger, anxiety, emotional apathy, etc. Sanctifying faith turns to Jesus and His Word, Romans 6:5-11 (“count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God”), or Romans

8:26-39 (“the Spirit helps us in our weakness & nothing separates us from God’s love”) and relies on the Spirit's power to choose purity or trust in that moment.

- **Enduring Suffering with Trust > Bitterness:** You face a sudden trial or chronic illness. Sanctifying faith trusts Romans 8:18-28, and 1 Peter 1:6–7, choosing to trust that God and His purposes are good, even if we cannot understand them.
- **Forgiving the Unforgivable:** When deeply wronged, human emotion demands retaliation. Sanctifying faith trusts God's command in Ephesians 4:32, relying on Christ's capacity to forgive through them when their own strength runs dry. Letting go of bitterness and anger.
- **Daily Spiritual Disciplines:** Reading Scripture, serving others, resting, working, or praying not out of legalistic obligation, but out of a sanctifying faith that believes God's Word genuinely feeds, restores, and transforms the soul (John 17:17).

3. Mountain Moving Faith – special faith given for specific circumstances

- **Matthew 21:21–22 (ESV)** ²¹ *And Jesus answered them, “Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ it will happen.* ²² *And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.”* (**Mark 11:22-24**)
- **1 Corinthians 13:2 (ESV)** *... and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.*
- **This is the GIFT OF FAITH** – Not optimism, not convincing yourself what may happen, no human effort or positive thinking involved – NO!
- **It IS Divine Assurance that you have what you ask for – or that God is going to move in a particular way, NOT UNIVERSALLY PROMISED IN SCRIPTURE.**
- **Craig Keener notes** that while the "gifts of healings" refer to the actual physical restoration or outcome, the "gift of faith" is often the spiritual catalyst—the divine surge of certainty given to the person praying right before the miracle takes place.

This type of faith is a gift given by God and often accompanies another gift: Healing, deliverance, miracles, etc., which is why it is listed in 1 Cor 12:9 as a Spiritual Gift – it is special divine grace given to BELIEVE God in a particular situation. It is NOT common; it is not PERMANENT; we CAN ask for the gift of Faith! But, “the Spirit chooses as He wills”

Type of Faith	Primary Passage(s)	Definition & Function	Role in the Believer's Life
Saving Faith	Ephes. 2:8–9, Rom. 10:9–10	Initial trust in Christ's finished work on the cross for justification and forgiveness of sins.	Justification (Entry into salvation)
Sanctifying Faith	Gal. 2:20, Col. 2:6–7	Daily reliance on the indwelling Holy Spirit to grow in holiness, resist temptation, and endure trials—persistent and growing confidence in God's character, wisdom, and promises.	Ongoing Transformation & Growth
Mountain-Moving Faith (Gift of Faith)	Matt. 21:21, 1 Cor. 12:9, 13:2	A sovereign, Spirit-imparted surge of absolute assurance that God is about to perform a specific, miraculous act in a concrete situation.	Charismatic Manifestation for Miracles/Healings

PAUSE: Ask for FAITH in All 3 Categories – Saving, Sanctifying, Mountain Moving!
Where do you have need? Salvation? Growth? Trial you are facing?

B. The Gift(s) of Healing

You'll note this is the only gift that is plural. In **1 Corinthians 12:9** and **1 Corinthians 12:28**, Paul uses a unique grammatical construction in the original Greek: *charismata iamatōn*—literally translated as "**gifts of healings**" (both words are plural)

The Gift(s) of Healing: (*Scholars Gordon Fee, Craig Keener, Sam Storms*)

- 1. No Person Possesses the GIFT of Healing – ability to heal at will:** Each healing is a distinct "gift" (charisma) God gives for a specific situation.
- 2. Specialized Anointings for Specific Conditions:** The plural "healings" suggests diversity in application. One believer may receive a gift of faith and healing for cardiac conditions or for healing blindness, or for praying with people through addiction & anxiety, etc.
 - E.g. I know of a gentleman particularly gifted in praying for people with eyesight issues. He has posted many live encounters online. He doesn't control the gift and doesn't have success in other areas.

Avoid Imbalances/Abuses:

Imbalance	Error Type	Missing Biblical Truth	Practical Result
1. Everyone gets healed	Presumption (Over-Realized Eschatology)	Ignores the "not yet" (resurrection hope)	Crushed faith when healing doesn't occur
2. Lack of faith prevents healing	Legalism (Faith as a human work)	Ignores God's sovereign grace & gift structure	Guilt and condemnation placed on the sick
3. No one gets healed today	Unbelief (Functional Deism or Hyper-Rationalism)	Denies the "already" of Kingdom power	Prayerlessness and cold rationalism
4. Human gifts have ceased	False Dichotomy (Cessationist)	Misunderstands how God acts via human agency	Rejection of 1 Cor 12 spiritual gifts

Does God heal? YES – Are the gifts of the Spirit still for today? YES! – Can we pray for healing? YES! – Can we ask for more faith? YES! JAMES 5:13-16

Delia Knox (Paralysis from Spinal Cord Damage): Following a severe car accident in 1987, Delia Knox suffered a severed spinal cord that left her paralyzed from the waist down, confining her to a wheelchair for 22 years. In 2010, while attending a ministry gathering in Mobile, Alabama, people prayed for her legs. She experienced a sudden surge of sensation in her lower body, stood up out of her wheelchair, and began walking unassisted. Her medical records confirmed the original permanent spinal cord lesion, making her immediate ability to bear weight, walk, and regain full sensory function medically inexplicable.

Theresa Thomas (Instantaneous Healing of Blindness): In 1985 in Bangalore, India, Theresa Thomas had suffered total vision loss in her right eye due to optic nerve atrophy—a condition verified by multiple medical professionals as irreversible. During a prayer meeting, she felt intense heat in her eye. When she removed her eye patch, her

sight returned. Subsequent medical examinations confirmed that her optic nerve, previously clinically dead, had spontaneously and inexplicably recovered full function.

Melinda Dueck example: Close to 20 years ago, we were in a prayer meeting for ME as we were starting 4Winds Ministry. During that meeting, I sensed the Lord wanted to heal Melinda. She had an irregular heartbeat, murmurs, light-headedness, and fainting. The doctor had run tests and taken away her driver's licence. I felt what can only be described as electricity in my hand and knew I was supposed to lay hands on her and that God would heal her. The problem was, I was chicken! I was afraid, so I didn't say anything. Before we left Hector, her husband looked at me and said, "Are you going to pray for Melinda or what?" How did he know? The Lord must have told him, as he had done with me. I prayed for her, and she turned and said, "I am healed." This wasn't wishful thinking. We all just KNEW. It was the GIFT of FAITH working together with a GIFT OF HEALING. When she went to the doctor, they redid the tests, and everything was normal. The doctor cried and also gave my driver's licence back.

C. The Ministry of the Church (*all believers*)

Healing was not restricted to Jesus' earthly life. He commissioned His disciples to heal the sick (Luke 9:1–2), and the Book of Acts records numerous healings performed by the apostles & regular believers! (Acts 3:6–8, 19:11–12). For the church's ongoing life, James provides a framework.

James 5:13–16 (ESV) ¹³ *Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.* ¹⁴ *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.* ¹⁵ *And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.* ¹⁶ *Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.*

We are CALLED to PRAY for HEALING – It is to be normative with the Church! MORE people get healed when they obey this call!

Sometimes: totally in the moment, partially, slowly over time, or they are strengthened to endure → God answers PRAYER.

AFTER SERVICE PRAYER – ALL STAFF PRAYER – FRIDAYS – EMPOWER – this is a REGULAR part of SC!

Tension in the "Already / Not Yet":

The New Testament does not promise complete exemption from physical suffering or death in the present age. Paul speaks of his "thorn in the flesh" that God chose not to remove (2 Corinthians 12:7–9), left Trophimus sick in Miletus (2 Timothy 4:20), and advised Timothy to take wine for his frequent ailments (1 Timothy 5:23).

Will you bring your needs to Jesus in prayer? Ask Him for healing? Ask others for prayer? Trust in God's purposes for your life? Keep on seeking? Keep on asking?

Jesus IS the answer to suffering → He has suffered & He will return and remove ALL suffering!

GO → After Service Prayer – share & be prayed for!

COME TO EMPOWER THIS OCTOBER to learn MORE. Oct. 24-26: sign up online!

PRAY for the GIFT OF FAITH & GIFT(S) of HEALING & INVITE – The Spirit to minister to Southland!

Physical healing in the present serves as a foretaste of the ultimate, complete bodily redemption promised at the final resurrection, when God will wipe away every tear and eradicate pain completely (Revelation 21:4).