

## Healing a Biblical Perspective A summation

- I Faith healers claim that:
- 1 They have the biblical gift of healing.
  - 2 Sickness<sup>1</sup> is never the will of God.
  - 3 Sickness is the result of sin, lack of faith, or both.
  - 4 God can't really use you if you're sick or handicapped.
  - 5 God wants every Christian healed.
  - 6 Healing is in the atonement and available by simple faith.
- II Since their healing differs from biblical healing in that:
- 1 They lack sufficient consistent verifiable organic healings to corroborate their claims.
  - 2 They heal functional problems in contrast to NT organic healings.
  - 3 Their healings are not consistently instantaneous as in the NT.
  - 4 Their healings are not complete healings as in the NT.
  - 5 They do not resurrect the dead, as with the NT gift of healing.
  - 6 The really serious cases consistently go unhealed, e.g. paralysis, blindness.
  - 7 They don't go to places where the really sick are.
  - 8 Modern day healers get sick themselves.
  - 9 They have to create a false distinction between sickness and symptoms in order to prove they don't get sick.
  - 10 Magicians, shamans, etc. can imitate their healings, which is not true of biblical healings.
  - 11 It is based on questionable interpretations of scripture.  
A Job 1:21, Isa. 53:5, Isa. 53:4, Gal. 3:13, 2 Cor. 12:7, Eph. 5:23, 1 Pet. 2:24
  - 12 They need a closed environment.
  - 13 They categorically disallow any suggestion that God is, at times, the author of sickness, causes or allows sickness in His children for their spiritual benefit and the advancement of his kingdom; further, they teach that God cannot fully use someone who is not in good health in spite of clear scripture and history-- Paul – Gal. 6:11; Epaphroditus – Phil. 2:27; Trophimus - 2 Tim. 4:20; Timothy - 1 Tim. 5:23.
  - 14 They say sickness is never of God or that sickness is always out of the will of God, in spite of Ex. 4: 23; 2 Kings 15: 5; Lk. 1:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:29-32; Moses had a speech impediment Ex. 4: 10, Paul may have had eye problems Gal. 6:11.
  - 15 Many of the greatest Christians in history suffered chronic sicknesses: John Calvin and his wife, Martin Luther, John Knox, George Whitfield, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, Adonirum Judson, Lottie Moon, etc., not to mention the faithful of our own day.
  - 16 These signs authenticated the Apostles as being God's inspired writers of the NT- 1 Cor. 12:12; Heb. 2: 3-4.
  - 17 The NT, now completed, needs no external confirmation as the word of God.

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<sup>1</sup> sickness is used in this paper to include all manner of sickness, disabilities and diseases

18 God heals in answer to prayer, according to His will, without the intervention of healers.

19 The caliber and number of verifiable healings is no greater than the number that pagan healers produce, or that statistically would have gotten better even if they had not sought miraculous healing.

A **The question should not be, why do some people doubt the Charismatic healers' claims to have the biblical gift of healing, but rather why do some people believe that they have the gift?**

III The burden of proof:

1 That they claim to heal some, some claim to be healed, or some are actually healed is not the point. Healings happen, by the grace of God, through prayer and providence. The point is that they claim to possess the same gift as the apostles; hence, they must be able to support that claim by clear NT teachings and healings which are of the same quality, purpose and nature as those performed by Jesus and the Apostles, which they have not done.

2 The burden of proof is upon them to demonstrate healings that are the same quality as the NT or else forfeit the claim to have the NT gift of healing.