

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

*...and to another, **gifts of healing**, by the one Spirit; (10) to another, **the working (the effect of God working through us) of miracles**;*

Gifts of healing are mention twice more (vrs 28 and 30) Miracles once more (verse 28)

When I read this passage...several thoughts come to mind...first I think of **God's generosity**. It's GIFTS of healing and working of MIRACLES...the multiplicity of His goodness is overwhelming.

Then...I'm amazed at **God's willingness**...His eagerness to empower us, to enlighten us...to not leave us in the dark or ignorant concerning the gifts and the purpose for the gifts. Both of these...His generosity, His willingness....remind me of His love...for God so loved...He gave!

Quick definition(s)

The gifts of healing is the supernatural ability of God's healing power to restore a person who is sick, injured, or suffering.

The working of miracles is the supernatural demonstration of the power of God making the impossible...possible.

When the faith of God is in us... Remember from last week we learned that when Jesus said have faith...He was saying "May the faith of God be in you." Or Have God's faith! When we are exercising this kind of faith...these gifts work together...**so a working definition of both of them together would be:**

A supernatural demonstration of His love

In verse 31 Paul reminds us to seek these gifts...but with a God mindset...

*"But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more **excellent (surpassing excellence) way (road to travel)**."*

That road, that way...is love.

Gifts are not the main thing... Love is the main thing. Using the gifts is one way to love each other...gifts, motivated by love...for the common good of all.

1 Corinthians 14:1

Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

Once we set our hearts to pursue love, we are positioned for spiritual gifts to flow through us. Seeking the gifts is motivated by love...by our compassion for one another...we are to look at the gifts of the Holy Spirit through the lens of love...the Word says...is the better way.

There is no formula to follow but there is a person (and His way) to follow! We follow the Holy Spirit living inside of us and move in faith according to His Word, His promises and His Will. All motivated by a love for Him and for hurting people. These are gifts...given to give away...to give back into the community of believers we follow Christ alongside of and to reach the world we live in.

This why I think that more than a lack of faith (although Christ spoke to the disciples more than once about their faith struggles) ...more than sin (although a possibility, sin hinders prayer - Psalm 66:18) as the reasons for these gifts not being active in the church today...is a lack of love.

We need an infusion of God's love that so overwhelms our heart... that move us to compassion in such a way that we will move heaven and earth in prayer for someone in need. Paul reminds us that we could have faith that moves mountains but without love...we're nothing! The Greek means...no-one...nobody!

God wants you to be somebody... to be powerful...to be sons and daughters of faith... to have the compassion, the care, the love for those in need and become the vessels for the Father to heal and work miracles through. As we pursue love and as they are needed... those gifts will manifest themselves through us.

Makes me think of this story in Mark (have somebody read Mark 10:50-52)

I love this question by Jesus..."What do you want me to do for you?" I see His generosity and willingness on display here in this story...here are some thoughts on how to respond to God's generosity and willingness to heal and do miracles in our lives.

Take heart; get up...respond to God's call...

John 16:33

"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."

He threw off his cloak...Why? I think this is a picture of our heart. Sometimes... there are things that hinder our walk, that get in our way for healing and we have to throw them off.

Psalm 55:22

"Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved."

Did you notice something perhaps odd in this story? Jesus doesn't PRAY for this man's healing...He just grants it. Jesus responds to this man's faith by healing his eyes...without praying!

What does this mean for us?

We go back to verse 49...

We listen to Jesus...and we follow His example... He tells us to call out to those hurting...

We encourage with love...them to Take heart; get up...respond to God's call...