

necessarily mean physical weakness or sickness) he means that his weakness is an occasion to show God's strength. Men are led to Jesus through seeing His healing today just as they were in New Testament days. Physical healing of the unbeliever should bring him to Jesus as his Savior. Because through the years, and still today, so many Christian churches have failed to proclaim the truth that Jesus still heals today, false cults have sprung up around an unbiblical kind of healing that does not glorify Jesus. Someone has called these groups the "unpaid bills of the Church"! . . .

On the other hand, many churches of all denominations who are moving in the charismatic dimension are seeing more and more healing. Blind eyes are opened; cataracts dissolved (yes, and even empty eye sockets filled!); deaf ears are made to hear; tumors disappear; broken bones are instantly mended; damaged hearts restored; multiple sclerosis, tuberculosis, cancer, paralysis, arthritis, and all the ills the flesh is heir to can be and are being healed by the touch of the Master's Hand. Some of these healings have been instantaneous, some progressive, some partial. In situations where we have desired to see healing, and we have not seen it, the fault is not with God, but with man. We are quick to say: "God didn't do it. I guess He isn't ready to heal me." Yet the Word of God says that He is, and right now.

People say: "I'd believe in healing if I saw a case where the doctor took an x-ray, prayer was said, then a second x-ray was taken and healing proved!" There are many such cases on record, where the healing is completely proven by medical evidence, with all the x-rays, tests, etc., on file. Alas, those who say they demand such evidence never seem to go and look at it! Jesus said: "If they believe not Moses and the Prophets (who certainly bore witness to God's healing), neither will they believe, though one rose from the dead" (Luke 16 :31).

The best way to learn about healing is to begin to pray for the sick. Ask God to use you in this way, then step out in faith. Some know when they are to pray for the sick by an inner witness; others may feel a warmth in their hands; still others may have overwhelming compassion. We should not depend only on these outward signs, however, but if they confirm that inner knowing in your spirit, you have double witness to claim God's healing, especially if circumstances make it possible for you to pray for the needy one. When healing takes place, be sure to give God the glory, and lead the healed one to Jesus if he or she hasn't already met Him. As you continue to look to our Lord Jesus and stay in loving fellowship with Him, the signs will follow.

Charles C. Ryrie (pp. 87-88) asks: "in what light is one to regard the question of healing today?" He answers as follows:

1. As has been stated, God can and does heal apart from the exercise of the gift of healing. He does answer prayer, and He answers it in regard to physical problems; but such answers to prayer are not the exercise of the gift of healing.
2. It is obviously not the will of God to heal everybody. For example, it was not God's will to heal Paul of his thorn in the flesh (II Cor. 12:8-9).