

THE SPIRITUAL GIFT OF HEALING

People blessed with the gift of healing allow God to work through them to relieve others of suffering (physical, mental, or emotional) and bring about restoration and wholeness. While this can look very different in each situation and person, it is always meant to draw us closer to God so we experience his love and care for a hurting world. Scriptural examples of individuals gifted with healing include the Apostles Paul (Acts 14) and Peter (Acts 3, 9).

The apostle James advised the church, “Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.” (James 5:14-16).

This tells us that healing comes through prayer in the context of community. While healing is considered one of the miraculous gifts, it is not flashy, attention-seeking, or about instant cures. It is as much about our spiritual well-being as our physical wholeness.

People with this gift...

- Give restoration and wholeness to the sick and suffering
- Feel great empathy for those who are unwell or burdened
- Have a calming, compassionate presence that makes others feel seen and cared for
- Have an active prayer life and look for the work of the Holy Spirit in the world around them
- Value confidentiality and trust
- Are confident that God works in people’s lives today
- Can maintain strong boundaries
- Are affirming and slow to judge

Putting your gift into action...

This spiritual gift is closely related to the gifts of faith and miracles. The disciples were given authority to heal and cast out demons, but today it could involve prayer for someone who is ill or the practice of any forms of modern medicine. Their ultimate concern is the physical and spiritual well-being of those being healed and their relationship with Jesus.

In our Parish, people with this gift can:

- Assist the pastoral care team
- Visit seniors, the housebound, and those who are ill
- Offer prayer to someone who is struggling or unwell
- Join the prayer team
- Commit to praying for those who appear in our bulletin and long term prayer list

At home and in the world, people with this gift can:

- Pray for their children, grandchildren, and nieces/nephews
- Make extra time for friends and colleagues who may be carrying heavy burdens
- Volunteer at a hospice or care home
- Pursue a vocation in the medical or nursing fields

For I am the LORD, who heals you. ~ Exodus 15:26

To learn more about spiritual gifts and stewardship in the life of the church and to explore short summaries of the other gifts, visit <https://stpaulshk.org/stewardship>.

Want to use your spiritual gifts as part of our community? Please talk to any member of the Stewardship Team: Mark Stalter, Tracy Albert, Francis Christensen, or Kristen VanderHoek, or email us at stewardship@stpaulshk.org and we’ll get you started!