

Healings in the Apostolic

Evidence of St. Irenaeus - “[Christians] perform miracles in his name for the well-being of others, according to the gift each one has received from him. For some truly drive out devils, so that those who have been cleansed from evil spirits frequently believe in Christ and join the Church. Others have foreknowledge of things to come: they see visions, and utter prophecies. Still others heal the sick by laying their hands on them, and they are made whole. Yes, moreover, the dead have even been raised up, and remained among us for many years.”

Evidence of St. Francis Xavier

Isn't it better to offer it up?

Is it presumptuous to expect a miracle?

Do all have the charism of healing?

Should we claim healings? (Ps 103:2-3)

What if some are not healed?

Can lay people lay hands on the sick?

Can I become afflicted by laying hands?

It is not only through the sacraments and the ministries of the Church that the Holy Spirit sanctifies and leads the people of God and enriches it with virtues, but, “allotting his gifts to everyone according as He wills,” He distributes special graces among the faithful of every rank. By these gifts He makes them fit and ready to undertake the various tasks and offices which contribute toward the renewal and building up of the Church, according to the words of the Apostle: “The manifestation of the Spirit is given to everyone for profit.” These charisms, whether they be the more outstanding or the more simple and widely diffused, are to be received with thanksgiving and consolation for they are perfectly suited to and useful for the needs of the Church. – Vatican II, Lumen Gentium 12

Homework: Prayerfully read selected Gospel and book of Acts healing stories and ask Holy Spirit to give you personal teaching about healing ministry. Write a reflection in your journal to share with your small group on what you learned from these scriptures. Each of the entries includes a description, location and passage reference.

- Peter heals a lame man/Jerusalem / Acts 3:1-11
- Apostles perform many wonders/ Jerusalem / Acts 5:12-16
- Peter heals Eneas/ Lydda/ Acts 9:33, 34
- Peter raises the dead / Joppa / Acts 9:36-41
- Paul converted and healed/Road to Damascus / Acts 9:1-9
- Paul heals a cripple Lystra / Acts 14:8-10
- Paul casts out a spirit of divination / Philippi / Acts 16:16-18
- Paul restores Eutychus to life/ Troas / Acts 20:9-12
- Paul heals multitudes/ Corinth / Acts 19:9- 12
- Paul shakes off a viper and heals leader and multitudes/ Malta / Acts 28:3-6

Supplemental Reading: *Healing* by Dr. Mary Healy (see syllabus for suggested weekly reading)