MIRACULOUS DIVINE HEALING
I Cor. 12:9

Introduction:
A. "Miraculous Divine Healing" has taken some strange turns in my lifetime.
   1. Oral Roberts from tent to TV, from laying on hands, to hospital.
   2. M.D.'s turning to faith healer. (Healing p. 119).
B. "Miraculous Divine Healing" need to be examined.
   1. Because of widespread interest in it.
   2. Because millions are being spend on it.
   3. Because of what the Bible has to say about it.
C. "Miraculous Divine Healing" will be examined in this lesson by asking and answering some important questions:

Discussion:

I. What is the issue involved in this question?
A. It is not:
   1. Does God heal. He does, but by what means?
   2. Has God ever used men to perform miracles of healing? He has.
   3. Does God still have the power to perform such miracles? He does.
   4. Does God hear and answer prayers on behalf of the sick? He does.
B. It is: Does God heal today in a miraculous fashion?

II. Has anyone ever been able to perform miracles of healing?
A. Jesus did. (Matt. 4:23,24; 9:35)
B. Jesus's Apostles did.
   1. The twelve during limited commission. (Matt. 10:1,8)
   2. The apostles during great commissision. (Mark 16:15-18).
   3. Paul (Acts 14:3, 8-11)
C. Certain contemporaries of the Apostles. (1 Cor. 14:9).

III. What were some outstanding features of New Testament miracles of healing?
A. The success rate.
   1. Of Jesus. (Matt. 4:23,24) - Note the "all's".
B. The instant results. (Mk. 5:29; Lk. 8:47). (cf. Chapalear's photographic mind)
C. The complete results. No relaps nor mere remissions.

IV. What was the purpose of New Testament miracles of healing.
A. To confirm the deity of Christ.
   1. All His signs given to produce faith in his deity. (John 20:30,31).
   2. He used healing to show his deity - power to forgive sins. (Matt. 9:1-8).
B. To confirm word of Apostles and prophets. (Mk. 16:17,18).

V. How do we know that men cannot do the same things today?
A. The means by which men (other than Jesus and Apostles) received this power is no longer present today, i.e., the laying on of Apostle's hands.
   1. Paul needed to be present to impart spiritual gift to Romans (Cf. Rom. 1:11).
   2. Phillip could not impart the power, only Apostles. (Acts 8:6,14-19).
B. The duration of such spiritual gifts set by the Scriptures. (1 Cor. 13:8-13).
   1. "Does not say gift of healing ceased?" Paul uses partial list for whole. (cf. vss. 1-2)
   2. "That which is perfect" is completeness of revelation. (Cf. 400 years between the Testaments)
VI. How do we account for the apparent success of modern faith healers?
   A. Psychosomatic illnesses - power of suggestion.
   B. Incomplete diagnosis and follow up.
   C. Screening and fakery.
   D. Illnesses that come and go.
   E. Illnesses that would take care of itself.

VII. What About Jas. 5:14-16?
   A. The possibilities.
      1. Elder's had miraculous power by laying on of apostles hands.
      2. Healing not miraculous but by providential means.
      3. Two words for "sick" - see Vine's definitions.
   B. Does not fit modern faith healer's pattern.
      1. Sicked called for elder - F. Healers calls for sick to come to him.
      2. Elders - F. Healers not elders.

Conclusion:
   A. God has worked miracles of healing through men.
   B. No evidence of it today, but evidence to the contrary.