

Dear Ceri,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You told us that you were called by God "to do healing and open a pamper business." You said that you heal and wash homeless people's feet for your church as well as run your own business. However, you told us that you have been getting sick all the time with colds, chest infections, and, of late, infections in both ears. You wanted to know if you needed to do something after you heal because even one healing tires you very much. You asked for our help.

We can only theorize as to why you have been getting so sick. Perhaps you have been working too hard and not getting enough rest, thereby compromising your immune system. Although we are truly sorry for your poor health and sympathize with your situation, we cannot advise you because we do not believe that praying for physical healing in this day and age is appropriate.

The miraculous gifts that Jesus' disciples received at Pentecost were necessary in order to fulfill Jesus' last command to them before he ascended into heaven. "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." (Mark 16:15) "Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by signs that accomplished it." (Mark 16:20) We believe the special gifts of the spirit (1 Corinthians 12:7-11) were much needed at the time since the gospels were not yet written. Seeing that the apostles were preaching the good news of Christ's kingdom that will come on earth (as well as in heaven), it was fitting that they should confirm their message by doing miracles, such as healing the sick, which gave a foretaste of what that time would be like when "the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped." (Isaiah 35:5)

Although the apostles could confer the special gifts of the spirit to others, that ability belonged to the apostles alone. That power passed away once the apostles were off the scene. The Christian today lives by faith, not by sight. He does not need miraculous deeds in order for him to believe and follow after Christ. He has the Word of God (the Bible) to instruct him and God's grace to sustain him even when physically very ill. In regard to the miraculous gifts of the spirit mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12, the Apostle Paul states, "But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. . . . And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:8, 13)

We realize that our answer is not what you may have anticipated, but it is one for which we are convicted. Be sure to sign up for CQ Rewind at www.christianquestions.net. The service is free without obligation and will provide you with scriptural perspective on many questions and topics.

Sincerely,

Christian Questions Radio