

GIFTED TO SERVE



Gifted To Serve | Miraculously Working | 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 & Acts 19:11-20

1. Does God heal today? Discuss. Do you have any anecdotal stories of God healing yourself or someone you know? Do you know anyone with a specific healing ministry?
2. What's happening in Acts 19:11-20? How is Paul's context for mission and ministry different and/or similar to mission and ministry in contemporary Christchurch?
3. Can you identify 'the greater purpose' beyond the signs and wonders in the story? Do you agree with Chris that we should always look beyond the signs and wonders (amazing as they are) for a greater purpose? Why? Why not?
4. Name the demonic practices that were happening in Ephesus. Have you encountered any of these in your lifetime, either personally or by association? Are astrology, fortune-telling, Ouija boards, horoscopes, tarot cards, etc. just harmless fun? Discuss.
5. *'In a place dominated by that which is fake and harmful, people hunger for what is real and life-bringing.'* Have you ever found this to be true?
6. How should we respond to some TV evangelists who make extra-ordinary claims about their ministry and, (at some of whom), are getting very rich as a consequence? What might the Apostle Paul say to them based on the story in Acts 19?
7. Why, do you think, are people attracted to churches and church leaders who suggest the extra-ordinary (Acts 19:11) ought to be everyday-ordinary for followers of Jesus? Is it possible your response is driven by a lack of faith, or, conversely, by an under-developed theology around suffering? Do you know people who have felt guilt, disappointment or disillusionment around the theme of healing? What was their story?
8. Chris said Jesus came to offer 'a better healing'. What does that look like?
9. When praying for the healing of someone, how, practically and with our words, do we walk what often feels like a tightrope between faith-filled prayer and the sovereignty of God? (These two things are not always mutually exclusive). Discuss from your experience.
10. Is it true that endurance through sickness and disability, helps us grow more, and is a better witness to others, than an instant physical healing might be?
11. *'Healing always comes from God at his discretion. He offers and invitation to dive deeply into faith with honesty and submission, trusting that whatever the outcome, God's plans are perfect.'* Which words in this quote seem important to you given the discussion you've just had?