

“The Promise of Divine Healing”

James 5:13-18

July 22, 2018

Dr. Norman Geisler, in his book *Miracles and Modern Thought*, defined a miracle as “a divine intervention into, or an interruption of, the regular course of the world.” C.S. Lewis defined a miracle as “an interference with Nature by supernatural power.”

I) Believe in the Power of Prayer: (vs. 13)

- A) Prayer is not meditation; prayer is not catharsis; prayer is talking to God, the creator and sovereign power of the universe.
- B) “Prayer is to religion what research is to science. The prayer of faith is confidence in God’s power and will to heal.” --P.T. Forsythe
- C) God always heals in one of three ways.

II) Believe in the Ministry of the Church:

(vs. 14)

- A) There are few things that the church does that are more important than prayer for the sick.
- B) Laying on of hands and anointing of oil are acts of simple obedience that quicken our faith and give God the opportunity to heal.

III) Believe in Being a Person of Faith: (vs. 16)

- A) We must have a right relationship with God.

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.
(Psalm 66:18)

- B) We must have a sincere spirit.
- C) Saint Augustine doubted the validity of healing prayer, stating in his early writings that Christians should not look for the continuance of the healing gift.

But in 424 A.D. . . .