

Becoming Whole in Christ

*Now may the God of peace
himself sanctify you completely,
and may your whole spirit and
soul and body be kept blameless
at the coming of our Lord Jesus
Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:23*



1 Corinthians 13:8–12

Cessationist: “The perfect” = the completion of the New Testament canon or the maturity of the early church. Once Scripture was complete, revelatory gifts (healing, prophecy, tongues) ceased.

Our View: “When the perfect comes” the return of Christ. Until then, healing, prophecy, tongues, and knowledge remain.

Ephesians 4:11–13

Cessationist: “Apostles and prophets” were foundational (Ephesians 2:20). Once the foundation was laid (Scripture complete), those offices — and their miraculous signs — ceased. Only evangelists, pastors, and teachers continue.

Our View: Apostles and prophets still exist in a secondary sense (Spirit-gifted Church Leaders, Church planters, missionaries). The church has not yet reached full maturity, so the gifts remain.

Book of Acts

Cessationist: *Acts is descriptive, not prescriptive. These were transitional events to confirm the gospel spreading from Jews to Samaritans to Gentiles. Not meant as a permanent pattern for the church.*

Our View: *These show a pattern of ongoing Spirit-empowered experiences (tongues, prophecy, healings). Not limited to apostles.*



HEALINGS IN THE EARLY CHURCH

Justin Martyr (c. 100–165 AD) - In his Dialogue with Trypho, Justin says that many in the church still had gifts of healing and deliverance in his day: *“For numberless demoniacs throughout the whole world, and in your city, many of our Christian men... have healed and do heal, rendering helpless and driving the possessing devils out of the men.”*



HEALINGS IN THE EARLY CHURCH

Irenaeus of Lyons (c. 130–202 AD) - *In Against Heresies*:
“Others still heal the sick by laying their hands upon them,
and they are made whole... Yes, moreover, as I have said, the
dead even have been raised up and remained among us for
many years.”



HEALINGS IN THE EARLY CHURCH

Augustine of Hippo (354–430 AD)

At first skeptical of modern-day miracles, Augustine later became convinced they were real and widespread in his time. In The City of God (Book 22, Chapter 8), he recounts dozens of healing miracles in his own parish in Hippo, including: blind people receiving sight, cancerous growths disappearing. The healing of people with paralysis and even resurrections.

Ditch

No One

Sin Never = Sickness

Isaiah 53:5

Does not apply

Person's Faith

Does not Apply



Ditch

Everyone

Sickness = Sin

Isaiah 53:5

Does apply

Person's Faith

Always Applies

For Every Mile of Road There Are Two Miles of Ditches

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:4-5

That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: “He took our illnesses and bore our diseases. Matthew 8:16–17

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Healing Prayer Steps

1. Interviewing

Ask the person's name? Ask the person what kind of healing they desire? (Consider level of pain or other ways to confirm healing.)

2. Listening

Listen in two directions: the person and the Holy Spirit? Then take a few moments to pray in the Spirit, being open to the Holy Spirit. How should I pray for this person?

3. Praying

Short prayers would be the norm. Keep your eyes open.

Soaking Prayer an option: *They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.* Isaiah 40:31

Laying on of Hands

Paul laid hands on Publius's father, and he was healed.

Acts 28:8

Jesus laid His hands on everyone brought to Him and healed them. Luke 4:40

3. Praying

Anointing with Oil

“Is anyone among you sick? Let him call the elders... let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.”

Confession

When I kept silent, my bones wasted away... For day and night your hand was heavy upon me... I acknowledged my sin to you... and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Psalm 32:3–5

3. Praying

RebukeCommand Sickness / Evil Spirits

Jesus “rebuked the fever, and it left her.” Luke 4:39

You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out. Mark 9:25

4. Reinterview/Optional Additional Prayer

Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

Mark 8:25

5. Optional Prayer of Thanksgiving