
FOUNDATION STONE 4

LAYING ON OF HANDS

As we continue our study in **Hebrews chapter 6** on the foundation stones and experience them in our Christian life, we will find the keys to the kingdom of god. Some of us will sit through these teachings and will apply them to our lives and yet others will only receive head knowledge. Those of us who experience god's word will be better witnesses, parents, husbands, wives, son's and daughters, employees, etc. The choice is ours!!

WHAT IS MEANT BY THE LAYING ON OF HANDS?

When we as believers place our hands on someone it should only be in obedience to god's word. The laying on of hands brings about an impartation of god's blessings on that particular person for the glory of god. The New Testament shows by command and examples when the laying on of hands should be used in the church.

Mark 10:16

and he took them in his arms and began blessing them, laying his hands on them.

WHEN DID THE LAYING ON OF HANDS BEGIN?

Genesis 48:10, 14-16

Now the eyes of Israel were so dim from age that he could not see. Then Joseph brought them close to him, and he kissed them and embraced them. (compare with mark 10:16) vs. 14 but Israel stretched out his hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh's head, crossing his hands, although Manasseh was the first born. He blessed Joseph, and said, the god before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the god who has been my shepherd all of my life to this day, the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the lad's; and may my name live on in them,

and the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and may they grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.

We see Jacob laid his hands on Joseph's children to impart a blessing. (Spiritual & natural)

Numbers 27:18-20, 22-23

So the lord said to Moses, take Joshua the son of nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay your hand on him; and have him stand before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and commission him in their sight. You shall put some of your authority on him, in order that all the congregation of the sons of Israel may obey him. Vs 22 Moses did just as the lord commanded him; and he took Joshua and set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation. Then he laid his hands on him and commissioned him, just as the lord had spoken through Moses.

We see here that Moses imparted some of his wisdom and spirit on Joshua.

Deuteronomy 34:9

"And Joshua the son of nun was full of the spirit of wisdom: for Moses had laid his hands upon him."

Remember we said that the laying on of hands should only be as directed by god through the Holy Spirit. If this would be followed today the church would not be in such a state of confusion. Paul exhorts us to "lay hands suddenly on no man."

I Timothy 5:22

Do not lay hands upon anyone too hastily and thereby share "responsibility" for the sins of others; keep yourself free from sin.

WAS THIS PRACTICE OF LAYING ON OF HANDS CARRIED OVER TO THE NEW CHURCH?

The answer to this question is yes. We will see that both Jesus and his disciples practiced the laying on of hands in their ministries. We too are called to continue this practice in the church today. There are many benefits that are imparted to the believer today. We will see that these benefits or blessings bring confidence to the body of Christ and mainly lift up Jesus. We will also find that there must have been a visible manifestation of God's power evident in the laying on of hands. Simon the sorcerer recognized it.

Acts 8:18

“and when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, saying, give me also this power, that on whomever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.”

HERE ARE A FEW EXAMPLES OF WHY WE ARE TO USE THE MINISTRY OF LAYING ON OF HANDS IN THE CHURCH TODAY.

FOR DIVINE INTERVENTION AND BLESSINGS

1) PHYSICAL HEALINGS

Acts 9:17-18

So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, brother Saul, the lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the holy spirit. And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized.

James 5:14

Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the lord; and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.

Mark 7:32-35

And they brought to him one that was deaf, and spoke with difficulty, and they implored him to lay his hand on him. Jesus took him aside from the crowd, by himself, and put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting, he touched his tongue with the saliva; and looking up to heaven with a deep sigh, he said to him, “ephphatha” that is “be opened!” And his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was removed, and he began to speak plainly.

OTHER SCRIPTURES CONCERNING HEALINGS

Matthew 8:2-4; 20:34; Mark 6:5; 7:32,33; 8:23,25; Luke 4:40; 13:13

2) WORKING OF MIRACLES

Acts 5:12

At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon’s portico.

Acts 14:3

(At Iconium) therefore, they spent a long time there speaking boldly with reliance upon the lord, who was testifying to the word of his grace, granting that signs and wonders be done by their hands.

3) RAISING THE DEAD

Matthew 9:18, 25

While he was saying these things to them, a synagogue official came and bowed down before him, and said, “my daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.” But when the crowd had been sent out, he entered and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. (Read these verses 19 thru 24)

4) SPIRITUAL DELIVERANCE

Luke 4:41

Demons also were coming out of many, shouting, “You are the son of god!” But, rebuking them, he would not allow them to speak, because they knew him to be the Christ.

LUKE 13:11-13

*And there was a woman who for eighteen years had had a sickness caused by a spirit; and she was bent double, and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said to her, “**women, you are freed from your sickness.**” And he laid his hands on her; and immediately she was made erect again and began glorifying god.*

5) BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Acts 8:17

Then they began laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit.

Acts 19:6

And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying.

6) IMPARTATION OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

I Timothy 4:14

Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery. (Elders)

II Timothy 1:6

For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of god which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

7) SEPARATION FOR SERVICE (MINISTRY)

ACTS 6:3-6

Therefore, brethren select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word. The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and

Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas, a proselyte from Antioch. And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them.

MAY THE LORD JESUS KEEP YOU IN ALL THINGS