

LESSON 11 UNDERSTANDING THE LAYING-ON OF HANDS

Memory Verse: Hebrews 6:1-2 "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. "

1. What is laying on of hands? (Hebrews 6:1-2)

a. When one person places his hands upon the body of another person with some definite spiritual purpose.

(1) This act is normally accompanied either by prayer or by prophetic utterance, or by both.

(a) Israel lays his hands on Joseph's sons to bless them (Genesis 48:14).

(b) Moses lays hands on Joshua to appoint him and give him honour (Numbers 27:18-23).

(c) Elisha lays hands upon the king's hands and speaks prophecy (2 Kings 13:15-17).

(2) Purposes:

(a) To transmit spiritual blessing or authority.

(b) Public acknowledgment of spiritual blessing or authority already received.

(c) Public commitment to God for some special task or ministry.

2. Laying on hands to impart healing.

a. Means whereby physical healing maybe ministered to the sick (Mark 16:17-18).

b. For the sick in the body of Christ (James 5:14-15).

c. God does the work (1 Corinthians 12:6).

3. Laying on hands to help those seeking the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

a. Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given (Acts 8:18).

b. Ananias commissioned to lay hands of Saul (Acts 9:10-19).

c. Signs that shall follow believers (Mark 16:17-18).

4. Laying on hands to impart spiritual gifts.

a. Gift given by prophecy with laying on of hands (1 Timothy 4:14).

b. Gift given by laying on of hands (2 Timothy 1:6).

c. A means of directing, encouraging, and strengthening.

5. Laying on hands to commission ministers.

a. Barnabas and Paul sent forth by laying on of hands (Acts.13:1-4).

b. Acts 14:26-27 -The grace of God enables the calling to be fulfilled.

6. Laying on hands to appoint deacons (Acts 6:1-6).

7. A word of caution: Lay hands suddenly on no man. There is direct spiritual contact. (1 Timothy 5:22)

8. A word of summary: Laying on of hands, strengthens the life of the local church physically and spiritually. Without it, we would have no gifts, administrative offices, and healing.

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WORKSHEET

1. What is laying on of hands?
2. What two things normally go along with laying on of hands?
3. State the three general purposes of laying on of hands.
4. What does laying on of hands have to do with healing?
5. Give an example from the Bible, of someone receiving the baptism of Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands
6. How did Timothy receive his spiritual gift? (1 Timothy 4:14)
7. Who laid hands on Barnabas and Paul? (Acts 13:1-4)
8. Tell where in the Bible deacons were appointed by the laying hands.
9. Why does the Bible caution that we not lay hands suddenly on any man? (1 Timothy 5:22)
10. Why do you think God instituted the laying on of hands?

PERSONAL REFLECTION: Tell when and why you might lay hands on someone.