

Fisher's Foundations

LAYING ON OF HANDS

Lesson 8

THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS CLASS:

Is to bring the student to a biblical understanding of the ministry of the doctrine of the laying on of hands.

"Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership" [1 Timothy 4:14].

INTRO:

The doctrine of the laying on of hands is the forth foundation stone listed in Hebrews 6.

“So let us stop going over the basics of Christianity again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don’t need to start all over again with the importance of turning away from evil deeds and placing our faith in God. You don’t need further instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding” [Hebrews 6:1-3 NLT].

When it comes to this ministry of *the laying on of hands*, the obedient Christian performing the act should realize that the One living on the inside of them is more powerful than anything else and that there will be a spiritual impartation to the person on whom his hands are laid. In other words, the Christian who lays his hands on another must have faith in God (not faith in faith or faith in self), that God’s power will be released through them to help the hurting person or the person who lacks at the point of their need. Under the law, the priest laid his hands on the animal to be sacrificed (see Leviticus 1:4, 3:2, 4:15, 16:21). This representatively transferred the sins of the people on to the innocent sacrifice. It typified how our sins were placed on Christ.

“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all” [Isaiah 53:6].

The only authority any man has is that which God authorizes. There is no “magical touch” involved in the biblical doctrine of laying on of hands. Rather, there must be an understanding of the principles of delegated authority.

I. OLD TESTAMENT REFERENCES

A. Joshua

1. **“Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses”** [Deuteronomy 34:9].
2. **“And the LORD said to Moses: ‘Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom *is* the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and inaugurate him in their sight. And you shall give *some* of your authority to him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient. ²¹He shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire before the LORD for him by the judgment of the Urim. At his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, he and all the children of Israel with him—all the congregation. So Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He took Joshua and set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation. And he laid his hands on him and inaugurated him, just as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses”** [Numbers 27:18-23].

B. Results of the laying on of hands in the Old Testament.

1. Joshua’s call ordained [Numbers 27:18, Deuteronomy 34:9]
2. Impartation [Deuteronomy 34:9; Numbers 27:20]
3. Acknowledgement of divine appointment [Numbers 27:18]
4. Transfer of spiritual authority [Numbers 27:23]

Q&A 1. Please explain what God accomplished through the laying on of hands in the Old Testament?

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.

II. NEW TESTAMENT REFERENCES

A. Healing

“...they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover” (Mark 16:18).

B. Infilling of the Holy Spirit

“Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, ‘Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.’ But Peter said to him, ‘Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money!’” (Acts 8:18-20).

C. *Impartation of spiritual gifts*

“For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established” (Romans 1:11).

“Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:6, 7). See also 2 Timothy 1:14.

D. *When commissioning Christians*

Leaders will delegate to or commission designated spiritual servant-leaders for important God-given assignments. There can be a variety of different church commissionings after this manner according to a plethora of needs represented in that local church, and spiritual gifts are often imparted at such times.

“Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership” [1 Timothy 4:14 NIV].

E. *Blessings on children*

“And He took them up in His arms, laid *His* hands on them, and blessed them” (Mark 10:16). See also Genesis 48:14-16.

F. *Ordination of ministers*

“They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith” (Acts 6:5-7).

G. *Sending out of ministries*

“As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent *them* away. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went” (Acts 13:2-4).

- Q&A 2. Explain the relationship between the person laying his hand on someone and the person on whom the hands are laid.

Q&A 3. When hands are laid on a person because he is sick, whose power heals that person?

Q&A 4. What is the purpose of the laying on of hands when commissioning servant-leaders?

II. SCRIPTURAL GUIDELINES

A. Use discernment.

The laying on of hands means that a person enters into ministry with another person. Therefore, it should not be done hastily or without discernment.

“Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people’s sins; keep yourself pure” (1 Timothy 5:22).

“And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you...”
(1 Thessalonians 5:12 kjv).

B. Show no partiality.

God is no respecter of persons. There is no room at all for any of us to play favorites, with one over another in the practice of the laying on of hands—we must follow the Holy Spirit in this.

“I solemnly command you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus and the holy angels to obey these instructions without taking sides or showing special favor to anyone”

[1 Timothy 5:21 nlt].

- Q&A 5. What are the Apostle Paul’s cautions to his son in the faith, Timothy, regarding the laying on of hands?

IV. A DOCTRINE FOR ALL BELIEVERS

As with the other foundational truths, the doctrine of laying on of hands is important for all Christians. Every born again believer has been given authority to minister in Jesus’ Name by the laying on of hands.