

Laying on of Hands - New Testament - Part 2

KEY VERSE: - Acts 14: 3

Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of His grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

The New Testament records five general purposes for the laying on of hands.

- Supernatural signs
- Baptism of the Holy Spirit
- Imparting Spiritual Gifts
- Commissioning Christians workers
- Dedication of Infants

Insights:

SUPERNATURAL SIGNS:

Jesus practiced laying on of hands in His ministry

Scripture References: Mark 6: 5 - Luke 4:40 - Luke 13: 13

The laying on of hands in the name of Jesus is used to minister physical healing to the sick. The person who lays his hands on one who is sick transfers the supernatural healing power of God. Sometimes the sick person actually feels the power of God in his body. At other times there is no feeling at all, but this does not mean healing will not occur. The laying on of hands is an act of faith and obedience to God's Word. Its effectiveness does not depend on feeling.

The timing of healings vary. Sometimes complete healing is received instantly as soon as hands are laid on the sick. Other times healing comes gradually. **Read - Mark 8:22-25.** It is important to instruct those seeking healing concerning the importance of maintaining faith until their healing is complete.

Scripture References: Acts 14:3 - Acts 5: 12 - Acts 19: 11 - Acts 28 28: 8

*Believer's and the laying on of hands.

The book of Acts records how God used the *laying on of hands by believers* to perform miraculous healings and other supernatural signs confirming His Word:

Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of His grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

Acts 14:3

And by the hands of the Apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people. **Acts 5:12**

And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hand on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me that thou mightest receive thy sight and be filled with the Holy Ghost. **Acts 9:17**

And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul. **Acts 19:11**

And it came to pass that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and a bloody flux; to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid hands on him and healed him. **Acts 28:8**

Faith must be present and is a qualifier for the believer. If the person laying hands on the sick, tormented, or demonized person does not believe that God heals today, now. Then the prayer is in vain and no results are forth coming. In the same manner the person receiving prayer with the laying on of hands must believe they will recover.

Insights:

Scripture References: Acts 14:3 - Acts 5: 12 - Acts 19: 11 - Acts 28 28: 8

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

Another purpose of laying on of hands is for baptism in the Holy Spirit. There are five examples recorded in the book of Acts of how people received baptism in the Holy Spirit.

The disciples in the upper room in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. Acts 2:1-4.

The new converts in Samaria - **Acts 8:14-20**

Saul of Tarsus - Acts 9:17

The disciples at Ephesus - **Acts 19:1-6.**

Cornelius and his family - Acts **10:44-46**

In three of these examples those seeking the baptism of the Holy Spirit were ministered to by other believers through the laying on of hands:

Read these 3 accounts:

The new converts in Samaria - Acts 8:14-20

Saul of Tarsus - Acts 9:17

The disciples at Ephesus - Acts 19:1-6.

The Laying on of Hands is not the only way people receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. In the upper room in Jerusalem and in the house of Cornelius people received the experience without anyone laying hands on them. But on the basis of these examples, it is Scriptural for those seeking baptism in the Holy Spirit to be ministered to through the laying on of hands.

Scripture References: Acts 2:1-4 - Acts 8:14-20 - Acts 9:17 - Acts 10:44-46 - Acts 19:1-6

Insights:

Imparting Spiritual Gifts:

Paul wrote Timothy:

Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of/by the presbytery. **I Timothy 4:14**

Paul refers again to Timothy's spiritual experience:

Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. **II Timothy 1:6**

Laying on of hands was combined with the gift of prophecy to direct, encourage, and strengthen Timothy to fulfill his God-given ministry. Again as in the Old Testament we see that there was or is a transference of power and authority on the person being released or sent to a mission or specific office.

Insights:

Scripture References: I Timothy 11 - 16 - II Timothy 1: 3 - 7

Commissioning Christians Workers:

Commission" means to authorize, delegate, or send on a mission.

As spiritual leaders were waiting before the Lord in Antioch...

...the Holy Ghost said, "Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them". And when they had fasted and prayed and *laid their hand on them*, they sent them away. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus. **Acts 13:2-4** **Read - Acts 13: 1- 7**

The Bible indicates God had already spoken privately to Paul and Barnabas about the work He wanted them to do before He spoke publicly to the church leaders. The public revelation was a confirmation of the call they already had received.

The leaders did not send Paul and Barnabas on their mission immediately. They took time for fasting and prayer. The sending forth of these two men was completed by the laying on of hands by church leaders.

***POI:** To demonstrate the power of the Gospel I want us to see the influence the word had at all levels. The Gospel was not only for the poor it reached people of influence, Manaen the scripture states was brought up with Herod the tetrarch. The history is that Manaen was raised up as a young man along with Herod. It is said that Manaen was a foster child in the house of Herod. This same Herod is the King that beheaded John the Baptist.

DEDICATION OF INFANTS:

It is not Scriptural to baptize infants, as they cannot repent or believe which are the requirements for baptism. But through the laying on of hands, infants can be dedicated and committed to God's protection, guidance, and blessing:

And He [Jesus] took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them, and blessed them.
(Mark 10:16)

A SPECIAL CAUTION

The New Testament provides a word of caution regarding laying on of hands:

Do not be in a hurry in the laying on of hands. (I Timothy 5:22) The Amplified Bible

Because an act of spiritual transference occurs when you lay hands on someone or they lay hands on you, it is wise to be cautious in using this practice. If the person laying on hands is not spiritually qualified, the practice is not effective. The Bible is specific about who is qualified to lay hands on another to impart spiritual benefit:

BELIEVERS:

Believers may lay hands on others:

These signs shall follow them that believe...they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. (Mark 16:17-18)

The qualifications of true believers have been discussed in previous chapters in the teaching on the principles of repentance from dead works and faith toward God.

APOSTLES AND DISCIPLES:

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

A certain disciple, named Ananias, putting his hands on him...be filled with the Holy Ghost. (Acts 9:17)

The apostles and disciples were men appointed and anointed of God. They were mature believers and examples of qualified leadership.

MEMBERS OF THE PRESBYTERY:

...the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. (I Timothy 4:14)

The high standards set for presbyters, also known as elders, are recorded in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.

SUMMARY

The five purposes for the laying on of hands in the New Testament are:

- Supernatural signs
- Baptism of the Holy Spirit
- Imparting spiritual gifts
- Commissioning Christian workers
- Dedication of infants