

Foundation Building Blocks

FBB1-5-3-04 Principles of the Doctrine of Christ – Laying on of Hands

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, 2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

The laying on of hands upon another (or thing) has several accounts and administrations in scripture: (*not an all-inclusive list*)

- Jacob giving blessing to Joseph's children (called Israel Genesis 35:10, Genesis 48:8-20)
- God's commandment to Moses concerning Aaron and his sons with regards to special offerings (Leviticus 1:1-4) would appear to be an authoritative transferring image
- Ordination of Joshua (Numbers 27:18-23) before all the congregation
- Condemning witness (Leviticus 24:10-16)
- Jesus laying his hands onto others to heal, give blessing (Matthew 8:1-4, Matthew 19:13-15)
- Apostles in authority of Christ, laid hands onto others to heal, ordain and whomever they lay hands on would receive gifts of the Holy Ghost (Acts 28:8, Acts 6:3-6, Acts 8:14-17)

This lesson will concentrate on the doctrine of Christ Jesus and of the Apostles, knowing that in their time they were aware of these prior uses of administrations of the purposes of laying on of their hands.

The intended purpose of the act of laying one's hands onto another was to appeal to the Holy Ghost (Spirit) to move and affect in a certain way that would be perceived as God's will or purpose.

It should be understood that no person has power (or authority) over the spirit of God; to command him to move or respond in a certain way, nor to presume that the will of God is dictated by their own will. A person cannot even retain their own spirit in the day of their death, much less the spirit of God that lives forever.

Ecclesiastes 8:8 *There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.*



Laying Hands on the Sick to Recover

Jesus gave the Apostles a commandment to preach the gospel to every creature. Within this commandment, we are to understand that those that believe (the gospel) would lay hands on the sick, and they would recover.

Mark 16: 14-18 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. 15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. 17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; **they shall lay hands on the sick**, and they shall recover.

Acts 3:1-16 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. 2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; 3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. 4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. 5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. 6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. 7 **And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up**: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. 8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God: 10 And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him. 11 And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering. 12 And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, **as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?** 13 The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. 14 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; 15 And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses. 16 **And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong**, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.



Laying on of Hands to Enact the Will of God

The Apostles would prayerfully enact the will of God upon certain people through the laying on of their hands on them.

Acts 13:1-4 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. 3 And when **they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them**, they sent them away. 4 So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

The Apostles Established the Ordaining of Elders through the Laying on of Hands of other Elders

Upon careful consideration and prayer, the Apostles established criteria for elders to meet before they would be installed within the churches. When a person met the testimony of the criteria, and they were approved by God to that responsibility, the Apostles (or their representatives) would lay hands on these people to show God's approval and blessings upon them. This process was not taken lightly and was held in high regard. An elder would not lay their hands on a person (in the sense of ordination) without a person's testimony proven over time (1 Timothy 3:1-10).

Titus 1:5-9 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and **ordain elders in every city**, as I had appointed thee: 6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. 7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; 8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; 9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

1 Timothy 5:21-22 I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality. 22 **Lay hands suddenly on no man**, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

The Apostles Imparted the Gift of the Holy Ghost through the Laying on of their Hands

The Apostles (as well as others) impart the comfort and powerful witness of the gift of the Holy Ghost as they laid their hands on believers.



Acts 8:14-23 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: 15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: 16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) 17 **Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.** 18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, 19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. 20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. 21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. 22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. 23 For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

Principle of the Doctrine of Christ

Paul understood the importance of laying on of hands and that it was a principle thing he could do to equip and empower those under his mentorship.

2 Timothy 1:1-7 **Paul, an apostle** of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus, 2 **To Timothy, my dearly beloved son:** Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 3 I thank God, whom I serve from *my* forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day; 4 Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy; 5 When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also. 6 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.** 7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of **power**, and of **love**, and of a **sound mind**.

Paul understood that the laying on of hands was a spiritual application (impartation) of all good things that produce power (Holy Ghost), love (through spiritual empathy), and a sound mind (scriptural wisdom and abiding faith that comes through teaching and studying the word of God).

Jesus counted the blessing of little children so important that he likened it to the Kingdom of God. Jesus also commissioned that believers would lay hands on the sick, and they would recover. The Apostles continued the laying on of hands as an important part of Christian ministry. All of these examples show an understanding: that God's ministers must be in tune with his spirit to teach and spread the Doctrine of Christ.



www.mychristianfellowship.org

Evangelize, Educate, Equip:
*Providing Christian Fellowship
And Spiritual Support Worldwide*

Question 1

As described in Ecclesiastes 8:8, we can conclude that:

- A person will retain their spirit at death.
- A person can change the will of God.
- A person who is wicked will not be delivered.
- A person has power over the spirit of God.

Multiple choice (Unique answer)

Question 2

As described in Mark 16:14-18, those that believe the gospel will lay hands on the sick and they will recover.

- True
- False

True/False

Question 3

As described in Acts 3:1-16, the lame man was healed:

- Through the power of Peter and John.
- Through the power of Belial.
- Through the holiness of Peter and John.
- Through faith in Jesus name.

Multiple choice (Unique answer)

Question 4

As described in 1 Timothy 5:21-22, before the laying on of hands prospective elders must:

- Blameless.
- Self-willed.
- The husband of one wife.
- A lover of hospitality.

Multiple choice (Multiple answers)

Question 5

What is true when the Apostles laid hands on the believers?

- They went back to Jerusalem.
- They received the spirit of Korah.
- That they would receive the power of the Holy Ghost, receive the spirit of love (ability of effective ministry) and to receive the sound mind associated with a strong scriptural understanding that only God may give.
- They became millionaires.

Multiple choice (Unique answer)