

## Chapter 6

### Doctrine of Laying on of Hands

The practice of Laying on of Hands appears in both the Old and New Testaments. In the Old Testament there were three general applications:

- A) An anointing (often used with oil) as a conferring of authority to work. For example, the anointing of Priests and Kings. This anointing oil was very special and not for common use. It was made up of sweet spices, (stacte, onycha, galbanum) combined with pure frankincense mixed with pure olive oil. This anointing oil was used to anoint the Priest as a preparation for his service in the Tabernacle/Temple. No one could duplicate this anointing oil, which was like a perfume, and if they did the penalty was death. (Exod. 30:30-38) This Holy Anointing Oil is a type of the Holy Ghost with which God anoints the believer. As with the priesthood, so with us today. Until they have been washed and anointed, the individual is not qualified for service.
  
- B) Identification with the sin sacrifice. (IE The Day of Atonement, etc.). *“And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them UPON THE HEAD OF THE GOAT, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness”.* (Lev.16:21)
  
- C) Laying on of hands to confer a blessing or favor, and the commission with authority to work in an office. *“And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid hands upon him: and the children of Israel harkened unto him, and did as the Lord commanded Moses”.* (Deut. 34:9 / Num. 27:18-23)

The following scriptural references describe the Old Testament practices.

- Gen.48:13-20 Jacob blesses Joseph's children.
- Lev.9:22 The Right Hand of blessing (Favor).
- Lev.16:21 Laying hands on the living goat.
- Lev.8:14,18,22 Laid hands on the bullock and ram.
- Num.27:18-23 Moses laid hands on Joshua.

New Testament references where Jesus laid hands on to bless children:

- Mark 10:13-16 Jesus laid hands on little children to bless them
- Luke 24:50 Jesus lifted up his hands to bless.

In the New Testament there are three applications of 'Laying on of Hands' instituted by our Lord Jesus and practiced by the Apostles beginning with the early church. Since the scriptures refer to the children of God as 'Kings and Priests', then we, like the Old Testament Kings and Priests, must be anointed as well by the Holy Anointing Oil, the Holy Ghost. *"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light; which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God —"* (1 Pet. 2:9-10) *"And has made us kings and priest unto God and his father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen".* (Rev.1:6)

'Laying on of hands' provides a link or channel through which the anointing or virtue of God is passed from one person to another. The one 'laying on the hands' becomes the in-between person to the one receiving the blessing. The anointing is not of the person. They have no power of their own, The anointing or virtue comes from God. Virtue comes through a 'touch'. Jesus asked 'Who touched me, virtue has gone out from me' (Luke 8:43-48)

The three principle uses of 'Laying on of Hands' in the church beginning on the Day of Pentecost are:

1. In association with receiving the Holy Ghost.
2. Divine healing.
3. The Ordination of Ministers.

In the next chapter, Chapter 7, there is a more detailed account relative to the Holy Ghost and how it is received beginning on the day of Pentecost. It must be said at this point, there are references in the Book of Acts of 'Laying on of Hands' when individuals received the Holy Ghost. However, the fact that hands have been laid on an individual does not of itself mean they have receive the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost has the same evidence now as it did on the Day of Pentecost. Many practice laying hands on converts and by this act alone causes them to believe they have the Spirit of God. This simply is not true. Only God anoints with His Spirit (2 Cor. 2:21) *"Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is GOD"*.

Another very important fundamental of Apostolic Doctrine is that of DIVINE HEALING. This is one of the legacies given to the church. The healing Jesus did in his day was only an example of the benefits and privileges we, as members of the Body of Christ, are commissioned to do. *"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name they shall cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; and 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."* (Mark 16:17-18) *"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he hath committed sins, they shall be forgiven him"* (James 5:14-15)

The following scriptures show the practice of 'laying on of hands' for healing:

- II Kings 5:21 Naaman expected to have hands laid on him.
- Matt.9:18 Jesus laid hands on the dead daughter of a certain ruler (Jairus).
- Mark 6:5 Jesus laid hands only on a few sick folk.
- Luke 13:11-13 Laid hands on the woman and she was loosed from her infirmity.
- Mark 16:18 These signs follow, lay hands on sick, sick will recover.
- Acts 9:12, 17 Paul saw one coming to lay hands on him to recover his sight.
- Acts 19:11-12 Special healing by laying on of Paul's hands.
- Acts 5:12 Apostles work wonderous works.
- Acts 28:9 Paul healed Father of Publius.

The third and final practice of 'laying on of hands' in the church is the Ordination of the Ministry.

At the Annual Conference of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, one of the high lights is the Ordination service. Ministers who have proven themselves worthy by their conduct, academics, and fidelity to the Apostles teaching are commissioned and sent forth to do the work of the ministry and to build up the Kingdom of God as servants of the Most High God. *"Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which is given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of hands by the presbytery"*. (1 Tim. 4:14) Here the gift is the privilege to be a servant of God and to be commissioned (authorized) to work in that capacity. The Ministry is the greatest and most important work God calls a man to perform. The highest honor a person can receive is to be called into service as a servant for our Lord. From the church at Antioch, (the place where they were first called Christians) Saul (the Apostle Paul) and Barnabas were sent forth to do the work the Holy Ghost called them to. *"As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate unto ME Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and LAID THEIR HANDS ON THEM, they sent them away"*. Care must be taken, however, not to lay hands suddenly on any person for fear they may not be ready to go and authority is placed on the wrong person. See 1 Tim. 5:22 The church at Antioch commissions these two powerful ministers under the auspices of their authority to represent the Gospel of Jesus Christ to distant places among the Gentiles.

Scriptures referring to laying on of hands for Ordination (Conferring Authority, Commissioned).

- Acts 6:3-6 The seven chosen and commissioned - laid on hands.
- Acts 13:2-3 Barnabus and Paul sent forth by the laying on of hands.
- I Tim.4:14 Timothy had the presbytery lay hands on him.
- I Tim.5:22 We are warned not to lay hands suddenly on any man.
- Acts 19:13-16 Unauthorized laying on of hands.
- John 15:16 Jesus ordained his disciples (Mark 3:14).

- II Tim.1:6 Timothy urged to use his ministry.
- Num.8:10-11 Levites offered in service before God.

**Receiving the Holy Ghost. This portion will be covered in detail in the next chapter.**

- Acts 8:14-19 Peter and John laid hands on them - received the Holy Ghost.
- Acts 19:6 Paul had hands laid on him - when he received the Holy Ghost.

**Anointing, typical of the Holy Ghost.**

- Exod. 28:41 Anoint Aaron and his sons. (Exod.40:12-15)
- Exod.30:22-32 The Holy Anointing oil. (Not to be duplicated)
- Lev.8:30 The Priests were anointed.
- Exod.29:7 The Anointing oil - poured out (profusely to anoint)
- Psa.45:7 Anointed with the oil of gladness (Heb.1:9)
- Psa.89:20 David is anointed to be King.

Priests - Prophets - Kings were anointed (consecrated) into their office. (1 Sam.16:1)

**Jesus Christ is the only one who fills these three positions (Acts 10:38).**

God is the one who anoints us (2 Cor.1:21).

Having now been commissioned, it is time for the next step on the upward staircase. The cause or reason for our hope in Christ.