

WHO SHOULD LAY ON HANDS?

1. **Believers may lay on hands for healing.**
Mk 16:17,18 “These signs shall follow **them that believe**....they shall lay hands on the sick....”
2. **Apostles and disciples may lay hands for the reception of the Holy Spirit.**
Ac 8:18 “Simon saw that **through the laying on of the Apostles’ hands** the Holy Spirit was given.”
Ac 9:10-17 “A certain ... **disciple** named Ananias..... **putting his hands** on him.....said ‘Be filled with the Holy Spirit.’ ”
3. Apostles and Presbyters may lay on hands for ordination.
1Tim 4:14 “.....the laying on of the hands of the eldership.
2Tim 1:6 “.....the gift of God which is in you by the putting on of my (Paul’s) hands.”

(N.B. The high standard set for eldership, *1Tim 3:1-7; Tit 1:6-9*. see study 24.)

No 18

CHRISTIAN LIFE BIBLE COURSE

Study Eighteen: The Laying on of Hands

The doctrine of the Laying on of Hands is given quite a prominent place in both Old and New Testaments, and it is so important as to be listed as one of the “first principles of the doctrine of Christ” in *Heb 6:1,2*. We shall demonstrate by reference to various Scriptures that the Laying on of Hands is the distinctive truths of **impartation and identification**.

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS & THE O. T. SACRIFICES

What did the offerer have to do before he killed the burnt offering?

Lev 1:4 _____

See also *Lev 3:2,8,13; Lev 4:15,24,29,33*. The animal sacrifices had hands laid on them by the priest, the elders and the offerers. In so doing, the guilt and sin of the offerer was **imparted or transferred** to the animal. Thus, the innocent, the sinless, the perfect, became the guilty one and died. (N.B. This is a type of what Jesus did for us, *Jn 1:29*.)

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS & IMPARTING BLESSING

Read *Gen 48:14-16*. This is the first instance of the Laying on of Hands for the purpose of transmission of spiritual benefit. With his hands laid on the heads of Ephraim and Manasseh, Jacob prayed, “The Angel, which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads.” What did Jesus do when the little children came to Him?

Mk 10:16 _____

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS & HEALING THE SICK

1. In the Ministry of Jesus

How did Jesus minister healing to the sick at this time?

Lk 4:40 _____

Jesus imparted life and health to those who were in need.

N.B. Virtue went out of Him in *Lk 8:44,46*.

2. In the ministry of the church

As believers in Christ Jesus, how are we to heal the sick?

Mk 16:18 _____

Read *Ac 5:12; Ac 14:3; Ac 19:6*.

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS & THE HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

In *Ac 2 & 10*, we read of God sovereignly pouring out the Holy Spirit, first on the Jews, and second on Gentiles.....and God sometimes baptises people with the Holy Spirit in a sovereign way today. Notice that other Acts passages show that the Holy Spirit is normally imparted through the Laying on of Hands:

Ac 8:14-17 the Samaritan believers

Ac 9:17 Saul

Ac 19:1-6 the Ephesian disciples.

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS & SPIRITUAL GIFTS

It is true that God sovereignly imparts the gifts of the Holy Spirit **as He wills**, *1Cor 12:11*, but it is also true that He uses the Laying on of Hands as a means of **imparting** spiritual gifts.

Notice in *Ac 19:1-7* that prophecy was imparted to the Ephesian disciples through the Laying on of Hands as well as the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. Why did Paul desire to visit the church in Rome?

Rom 1:11 _____

It is most likely the ministry of the Laying on of Hands that Paul has in mind here.

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS & ORDINATION

Read *Num 8:10,11*. Here we see that the Levites were ordained to the ministry by the Laying on of Hands.

How did Moses ordain Joshua to the leadership ministry?

Num 27:18-23 _____

Read *Ac 6:1-6* for the account of the setting apart of the first deacons.

How did the apostles ordain these men to their ministry?

Read the following Scriptures to do with Timothy and his leadership gift. *1Tim 4:14-16; 2Tim 1:6*. How was this leadership gift imparted to Timothy?

How were Saul and Barnabas set apart for their apostolic ministry?

Ac 13:2,3 _____

CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN IN THIS MINISTRY

Why do we have to be careful in this ministry of the Laying on of Hands? *1Tim 5:22* _____

There is a definite impartation in the Laying on of Hands, and the people involved must be clean! The person who lays hands on another imparts either blessing or cursing, good or evil, life or death. *Ps 24:3,4*.