

LAYING ON OF HANDS

The laying on of hands is one of the most basic and fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith. (Hebrews 6: 1-2) It is not something that should just be done traditionally or legalistically, but the Bible lists very definite and purposeful significance in the laying on hands for the purpose of invoking God's blessings, receiving the Holy Ghost, healing, impartation of gifts as well as separation for service in ministry. It is mentioned in both the Old and New Testaments.

THE BIBLE LISTS THE FOLLOWING WHO RECEIVED AN IMPARTATION THROUGH THE LAYING ON OF HANDS:

Joshua:

And the Lord said unto Moses, "Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him, and set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight. And thou shalt put some of thine honour upon him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient. (Numbers 27: 18-23)

Little children:

Then were there brought unto him little children that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. And he laid his hands on them, and departed thence. (St. Mathew 19: 13-15)

Various people who received miracles in scripture:

Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them. (St. Luke 4:40)

Woman with infirmity for eighteen (18) years:

And he laid his hands on her and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. (St. Luke 13:13)

Believers in Samaria:

Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. (Acts 8:17)

Barnabas and Saul:

And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. (Acts 13:3),

Timothy:

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

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)

It should be noted that not only is laying on of hands practiced in the Christian Church, but it is practiced in the Roman Catholic Church, Latter Day Saints Movement, Presbyterianism and others. They lay hands to affirm Bishops, Priests, Deacons and even laypersons to ordain and install and commission for various offices and ministries.

*Although laying on of hands is proper and relevant in this 21st century, much wisdom should be exercised when performing this activity. Because this is a very serious and sacred act, one should be prayerful and Spirit led to lay hands on others and those having hands laid on them should also be sure that the person laying hands on them is truly a person of integrity who is being led by the Spirit. Paul exhorted the church to “lay hands suddenly on no man.” (I Timothy 5:22). Therefore we don’t lay hands arbitrarily on anyone but we allow the Holy Spirit to lead us for the aforementioned occasions. (installing, commissioning, healing, deliverance, impartation of blessings, etc.)

