

**Laying on of Hands**

**Lesson Number 13**

**Hebrews 6:1-3 (KJV)**

1Therefore 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, 2Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3And this will we do, if God permit.

Last time we met, we talked about the doctrines of BAPTISMS. We talked about “baptism into the body of Christ” which is actually what happens when we are saved. The Holy Spirit takes our spirit and fully immerses us INTO the body of Christ.

This is the “baptism that doth save.” (1 Peter 3:21)

We also talked about water baptism and how it represents the baptism into the body of Christ.

We have an abbreviated class today so instead of going on into the third baptism that effects the believer, we are going to talk about the “laying on of hands.”

If you have attended this class very long, you have probably seen us lay hands on people as we pray for them.

“The **laying on of hands** is a common biblical practice that, sad to say, is often absent in our churches today. Let’s see why we should be well acquainted with this power-filled biblical action.”

• The laying on of hands is a **foundational truth** of Scripture, just as important as repentance and faith.

**WHY** do we lay hands on people? **WHEN** should we lay hands on people?

**Leviticus 16:20-22 (ESV)**

“And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall present the live goat. **21**And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins. And he shall put them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness. **22**The goat shall bear all their iniquities on itself to a remote area, and he shall let the goat go free in the wilderness.

**How many of you have heard the term, “scape goat?” This is where it comes from.**

• Notice an important biblical principle here. Something was **transmitted** by the laying on of hands. Here it was the people’s sins. As you ponder various situations where hands are laid on people, remember the principle that something is transmitted in this biblical act.

**Luke 4:40 (KJV)**

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.

• [Jesus often healed](http://www.jimfeeney.org/Godisahealer.html) by the laying on of hands. He healed other ways, too, but He often laid on hands. This is a very common, and entirely biblical practice in many Bible-believing churches today. And with good results!

• Again, recall the concept of something being transmitted by the laying on of hands. In instances of laying hands on the sick, there seems to be a flow of [divine healing](http://www.jimfeeney.org/divinehealing.html) to the person in need. This was consistently seen in Jesus’ ministry.

**Mark 16:18 (KJV)**   
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.

• Believers can bring healing when they lay hands on the sick. This is not limited only to Jesus. Jesus Himself said that His believing followers would see the same results. That is, as they lay hands on the sick in faith, the sick will experience healing.

**John 14:12 (KJV)**   
Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

Many of you were here a few months ago when Penny Futch told how the Doctor had diagnosed her with a condition that would cause her to rapidly go blind. We all laid hands on her and prayed. The following Wednesday, the doctor told her the condition was gone!

I’ve seen this countless times!

**Acts 6:6 (KJV)**   
Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid *their* hands on them.

• **Ordinations to ministry roles** occur through the laying on of hands. Again, something seems to be transmitted. Here perhaps it was authority and enablement for the assigned ministry tasks they would undertake as deacons.

In 1988, I was ordained at Rhema Bible College when Kenneth E. Hagin laid hands on me.

• Barnabus and Saul were ordained and sent out in ministry by the laying on of hands of that local church’s leadership (vs. 1), under the clear guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 13:2-3 (KJV)**

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.

• The [**baptism with the Holy Spirit**](http://www.jimfeeney.org/baptism-Holy-Spirit-filled.html) (which we will talk about in a couple of weeks) is frequently received through the laying on of hands.

**Acts 8:14-17 (KJV)**

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.

• **Impartation of ministry gifts** can occur through the laying on of hands. But note that this is not just to be done arbitrarily by believers in general. The context of the two Scriptures below are the laying on of hands by **recognized church leadership** (the elders in one instance, the apostle Paul in the other).

**1 Timothy 4:13-14 (KJV)**   
Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. 14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

**2 Timothy 1:6 (KJV)**   
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**.

• Believers can always impart a **blessing** through the laying on of hands. We don’t always need a prophecy or a healing or the impartation of a ministry gift. Sometimes the relevant thing to do, the thing that is most needed, is simply to extend a blessing to someone. And we can easily do that by laying on hands and sharing some kind words, perhaps also a prayer.

**Mark 10:13-16 (KJV)**

And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and *his* disciples rebuked those that brought *them*. 14 But when Jesus saw *it*, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. 15 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. 16 And he took them up in his arms, put *his* hands upon them, and blessed them.

• **Caution** should be used in laying on hands. By way of illustration, a couple of *“hasty”, inappropriate* uses of laying on hands would be:

• **Premature ordinations**. If you are training young people for ministry, be certain that they are **well prepared** and you have the Lord’s go-ahead before laying hands on them for ordination.

**1 Timothy 3:6 (KJV)**   
Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

**I have seen what happens when a novice is put into a ministry position that they are not ready for.**

**1 Timothy 3:2-6 (KJV)**

A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; 3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; 4  One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5  (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)   
6 **Not a novice**, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

• Attempting to impart spiritual gifts to people you **don’t know**. Generally speaking, the [local church](http://www.jimfeeney.org/thelocalchurches.html), under the watchful oversight of elders/shepherds who know the flock, is the best venue for the laying on of hands and impartation of spiritual gifts.

**1 Timothy 5:22 (KJV)**   
Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

In sum, the **laying on of hands** is an often-overlooked but foundational biblical truth. Among its many proper biblical uses of laying are:

• healing

• ordinations

• sending qualified, called people out in ministry

• receiving the baptism with the Holy Spirit

• imparting spiritual gifts

• imparting a blessing

• There are more examples, but hopefully these few will encourage you to enlarge your thinking and your experience to embrace this powerful biblical truth of the laying on of hands.