

**BIBLE
STUDY**

FOUNDATION SERIES

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PART 4

LAYING ON OF HANDS

Hebrews 6:1-2a, *Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go 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...*

The hands are the members of the body that represent ministry to the body. God has ordained it so and so it is. We will look at four (4) basic aspects of laying on of hands and how this ministry strengthens and edifies the Body of Christ. First of all, let us gain from scripture the correct understanding of what the laying on of hands is all about.

In Numbers 27:15-23 it reads, *And Moses spake unto the LORD, saying, ¹⁶Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, ¹⁷Which may go out before them, and which may go in before them, and which may lead*

them out, and which may bring them in; that the congregation of the LORD be not as sheep which have no shepherd. ¹⁸And 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; ¹⁹And set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight. ²⁰And thou shalt PUT SOME OF THINE HONOUR UPON HIM, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient. ²¹And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgment of Urim before the LORD: at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation. ²²And Moses did as the LORD commanded him: and he took Joshua, and set

him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation: ²³And he LAID HIS HANDS UPON HIM, and gave him a charge, as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses.

In Deuteronomy 34:9, we are given the understanding of exactly what took place as the result of Moses laying his hands upon Joshua. It states, **And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had LAID HIS HANDS UPON HIM: and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the LORD commanded Moses.**

There was a transfer of life and power from Moses to Joshua. In this case, it was the “spirit of wisdom” that was imparted to Joshua. Therefore, we can readily see that it is not just a symbolic act or just going through the motions regarding the laying on of hands. On the contrary, there is something that is being passed from the one vessel to the other vessel. Typically, the greater (stronger) imparts to the lesser (weaker). Meaning to say, the greater in power (whether positive or negative) imparts to the lesser. This is the reason why the Bible warns against laying hands on suddenly. It is written in I Timothy 5:22, **Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men’s sins: keep thyself pure.**

Look at the conversation between John the Baptist and Jesus concerning who should baptize whom in Matthew 3:13-15, **Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. ¹⁴But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? ¹⁵And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered**

him. John had previously acknowledged that he was not even worthy to bear the Lord’s shoes (verse 11). He knew which of the two of them was the greater.

Similarly, Abraham was blessed by Melchisedec who met him upon returning from the slaughter of the kings. Read Hebrews 7:1-7. Here I will quote only verse 7, **And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better.**

In other words, it is a question of authority. Remember the centurion who came to Jesus asking Him about his servant that was sick? The centurion recognized the authority that Jesus had as he himself was a man that had authority over the soldiers that he commanded. He said to Jesus that all He needed to do was speak the word (give the command); there was no need for Him to come in person (Matthew 8:5-13).

Let us look at the four (4) basic purposes for the laying on of hands:

- 1. For healing:** Mark 16:18, **...they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.**
- 2. For the baptism of the Holy Ghost:** Acts 8:14-20, **Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: ¹⁵Who, 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.) ¹⁷Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. ¹⁸And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Ghost was**

given, he offered them money, ¹⁹Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. ²⁰But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

3. For the appointment of elders: See Acts 6:3-6, *Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this busi-*

ness... Verse 6, *Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. See also I Timothy 4:14, which says, Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery* (elders).

Read also Acts 13:1-4.

4. For blessing: Read Genesis 48:14-20, where Jacob laid his hands upon Joseph's sons and blessed them.

God bless you. Amen!

If you have finished studying the lesson, answer the following questions:

- 1. Why did Moses lay hands on Joshua in Numbers 27? What did Joshua receive from Moses (Deuteronomy 34)?**
- 2. Why does the Bible say that we should not lay hands suddenly on any man? Where is it written?**
- 3. Give four basic purposes for the laying on of hands including the scripture references.**