

THE DOCTRINE OF THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

“Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the **foundation** of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, **of laying on of hands**, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.” Hebrews 6:1-2 NKJV

The mere fact that this doctrine is numbered amongst the Foundational Principle of Scripture should make us realize how vitally important it is to the daily life of the Church.

It may be defined as *“an act whereby a person or persons lay their hands on the head or body of another person, with some definite spiritual purpose in mind”*. It is also important to note that it is normally accompanied by either a prayer or prophetic utterance.

The doctrine of laying on of Hands could signify one of three possible things:-

1. Transmitting spiritual blessing or authority,
2. Acknowledging publicly some spiritual blessing or authority that has already been received from God by the one upon whom hands are laid.
3. Publicly committing to God for some special ministry or task the one upon who hands are laid.

Old Testament incidences.

- a. The transference of sin. Lev 1 vs 1-4: The act of laying on the hands was to indicate the transference of sin from the person onto the animal.
- b. The impartation of blessing. Gen 48 vs 12-16: Here Jacob lays his hand upon Ephraim and Menasseh and pronounces a blessing over them. Indicating the transference of the blessing by the act of laying on hands. Along with the blessing Jacob speaks a prophetic word over them.
- c. The impartation of wisdom. Duet 34 vs 9: Here the spirit of wisdom was imparted to Joshua as Moses laid his hand upon him.
- d. The commissioning of Joshua. Num 27 vs 18-20: Moses commissions Joshua in the sight of the people under the command of God.

NEW TESTAMENT

• In the New Testament we find six distinctive purposes for the practice of laying on of hands

1. IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALING

2. In helping people to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit
3. The imparting of spiritual gifts
4. The commissioning of ministers
5. The ordaining of elders / shepherds
6. The dedicating of children

Warning of Concerning Laying On Hands

“Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people’s sins; keep yourself pure.” I
Timothy 5:22

Use wisdom in who you let lay hands on you.