

XVI. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

LESSON SIXTEEN

... ABOUT THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

INTRODUCTION

"Laying on of hands" is the fifth of the seven FIRST PRINCIPLES OF DOCTRINE OF CHRIST, Hebrews 6:1,2.

The purpose of this lesson is come to an understanding of the ministry of "Laying on of Hands", so that, we will not neglect this gift to the church.

1 Tim. 4:14, Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

WHAT IS MEANT BY THE PHRASE, LAYING ON OF HANDS?

The laying on of hands is an act in which one person places his hands upon another person with some definite spiritual purpose in mind - normally this act is accomplished by prayer, or prophetic word.

In the laying on of hands, the person performing the act should realize, there is a spiritual impartation to the person on whom his hands are laid. In other words, the person who lays his hands on another must have faith that God's power in his own life is of such strength as to overcome whatever power besets the person in need. Under the law, the priest laid hands on the sacrificial animal. (see Leviticus 1:4, 3:2, 4:15, 16:21) This act transferred the sins of the people onto the innocent sacrifice. It, also, typifies our sins being placed on Christ.

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6).

The only authority any man has is that which God authorizes. There is no "magical touch" involved in the Biblical doctrine of laying on of hands. Rather, there must be an understanding of the principle of delegated authority.

PRINCIPLE OF DELEGATED AUTHORITY

Determine from the following Scriptures the principle and progression of delegated authority.

Matthew 28:18

Luke 9:1

Luke 10:19

Mark 13:34

Mark 16:17,18

John 14:12

Acts 3:6,16

Acts 5:12

Acts 6:8

Acts 8:7

Acts 13:10-11 (14:8-10; 16:18; 19:11-12;20:9-10; 28:5,8,9)

Philippians 4:9

2 Timothy 2:2

Hebrews 13:8

Acts 10:34

Conclusions: We would note from the above Scriptures that the Principle of Delegated Authority in the Bible sees the Lord Jesus Christ giving His disciples/servants authority, in His Name, to carry on His ministry of "doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil." We see this principle being worked in the Book of Acts. The Apostle Paul extends this commission to our time and even until the return of Christ

PURPOSES FOR WHICH LAYING ON OF HANDS IS USED

According to Genesis 48:5-20, why did Israel (Jacob) lay hands on Manasseh and Ephraim?

Who received the greater blessing?

Through which hand then is the greater blessing imparted?

In Numbers 27:18, God instructs Moses to lay his hand upon Joshua. For what purpose:

Verse 19

Verse 20

Verse 21b

Verse 21c

Deuteronomy 34:9 shows the results of Moses laying his hand on Joshua according to the word of God.

According to the following Scriptures, what purposes do we see for the laying on of hands?

Mark 16:17-18

Acts 8:17,18

Romans 1:11 with 11 Timothy 1:6

Mark 10:16

Acts 6:6

Acts 13:2,3

Conclusions: We would note from the above Scriptures the purposes of "Laying on of Hands" includes: (1) healing the sick; (2) imparting of the Holy Spirit (3) imparting spiritual gifts (4) imparting blessings (5) imparting responsibility to one for ministry.

SCRIPTURAL GUIDELINES

The laying on of hands means that a person enters into ministry with another person. According to the following Scriptures what guidelines does the Word establish for laying hands on another person?

1 Timothy 5:21

1 Timothy 5:22

Conclusions: We would note from the above Scriptures that we need to discern the spirit/spirits of one before we lay hands on them and that we should not by any means show favoritism or partiality in the laying on of hands.

RESPONSE TO THE TRUTH

Since one important aspect of this doctrine involves the laying on of hands to impart spiritual gifts and blessings to individuals in the church for the on going ministry and life of the local church, what spiritual gifts do you desire from the Lord to help you in the ministry?