

ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

SECTION 3 – The Six Foundational Doctrines

Lesson 9 - The Ministry of the Laying on of Hands

Hebrews 6:1-2 *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.*

The laying on of hands has a very significant role throughout Scripture, and even throughout history.

What do we see in Scripture happening wherever there is the laying on of hands?

Wherever we see the laying on of hands in Scripture, we see specifically the imparting or the transferring of something.

In the Old Testament when they would bring a sacrifice to the Tabernacle for the remission of sins on Passover the guilty party would lay their hands on the innocent animal. The sin was transferred from the guilty person to the animal through the laying on of hands. That is why the animal was killed. There had to be a shedding of blood for the remission of sin. This was a foreshadow of Christ.

There is a very powerful significance, and truth, and principle, and purposes for the laying on of hands. That is why Paul warned Timothy to lay hands on no man suddenly. (1 Timothy 5:22) The laying on of hands impartats something, whether positive or negative.

There are seven powerful biblical principles, or main areas of transfer or impartation through the laying on of hands, that we are going to look at.

Number 1: Authority and wisdom can be imparted through the laying on of hands.

Deuteronomy 34:9 *Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses.*

Joshua was full of the spirit of wisdom throught the laying on of hands. Moses laid hands on him and transferred the spirit of wisdom.

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Ephesians 1:17 (Paul speaking) *that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.*

The Bible says that if any of you lacks wisdom he should ask the Father, and God will show no partiality, but He will freely give. (James 1:5)

Number 2: Healing can be imparted through the laying on of hands.

Luke 4:40 *When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them.*

Through the laying on of hands, health and healing is imparted. Don't you underestimate the power of healing through the laying on of hands.

Mark 16:18 *they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.*

Through the laying on of hands the supernatural power of health and healing that's flowing through the one individual can be imparted to another individual. Health and healing can be imparted through the laying on of hands.

Number 3: Life itself can be imparted through the laying on of hands.

2 Kings 4:34 *And he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he stretched himself out on the child, and the flesh of the child became warm.*

Elijah laid his hands upon the child's hands and with this there was an impartation of life from the prophet to the child.

Number 4: A spiritual gift can be imparted through the laying on of hands.

1 Timothy 4:14 *Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.*

2 Timothy 1:6 *Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.*

A spiritual gift was imparted to Timothy through the laying on of hands. No wonder Paul said don't do this suddenly. This is a sacred, holy, powerful experience. Not something

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to be done glibly, but something to be done with submission before God; with a sensitivity to the Holy Spirit; with utmost seriousness.

Number 5: We can receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost with a transference of power through the laying on of hands.

Acts 8:17 *Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

Number 6: We can be commissioned through the laying on of hands.

Acts 6:6-7 *whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.*

There was a dispute going on that the widows were not being taken care of and they went to the apostles with this problem. So the apostles got together and prayed, and as they prayed they asked God and looked for the men that were full of the Holy Ghost and full of wisdom to meet the ministry need. They prayed and sought God, and God gave them six names. They called these men full of wisdom, full of the Holy Ghost to wait on tables for a bunch of widows. That was their great ministry. They needed to be full of wisdom and full of the Holy Ghost to wait on tables for a group of widows.

It is interesting here that none of them argued. They simply heeded the Word. The apostles had prayed and said God has spoke to us and they received the calling. The apostles laid hands on them, and they were commissioned.

As they put food on the tables for widows, miracles started breaking out. Healings started breaking out and Steven had the privilege and the honor of becoming the first martyr in the church. He would never have become the first martyr of the church had he not done this menial task, this insignificant task, had he not been given the power to do it. And the Bible talks about him doing the miracles and the miracles are what got him stoned. But if he wasn't out there serving the widows it never would have happened. He never would have had the honor of being the first martyr in the church.

There is a power to being one who was sent and not one who just went.

We live in such an independent society today that we just all want to do our own thing. A pastor says, "God spoke to me the church is to go into a fast" and I'm telling you most of the people said, "Well, I just don't know. God didn't call me to go on a fast. God hasn't lead me to go on a fast." I don't know if you needed to be lead. You just got told.

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In the Old Testament, when the king called for a fast, even the animals fasted. There is a power to being one that is sent and not one who just went. Through the laying on of hands they were sent to do the work that God had called them to do. They were empowered to do it, and because they went and did without arguing, without debating, they had an impartation that came on them.

Steven was able to take on the greatest of all honors to be the first martyr because he did what God commissioned him to do. Not directly. We have no evidence that God ever spoke to Steven to do it. But because he trusted God to speak to his leaders, when his leaders said God he received the impartation and walked in the power.

When you are sent, whose authority and power do you walk in?

[When you become one that is sent instead of one that just went, you don't walk in just your power and authority but in the power and authority of the one who sent you.](#)

Now I know that you can get wrong people with wrong motives that will utilize this teaching and use it to take advantage of people. The true apostles will not take advantage of people. The true apostles will pray. And sometimes you may not think you are overqualified for it, you may think you are underqualified for it. You have to understand that the true servants of God commission you to do something and lay hands on you and impart you to do something, when you go out and do it you are no longer walking in just your power. You are no longer walking under your authority.

Number 7: Through the laying on of hands comes the transfer of blessing.

Genesis 48:14-20 *Then Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh's head, guiding his hands knowingly, for Manasseh was the firstborn. And he blessed Joseph, and said: "God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, The God who has fed me all my life long to this day, The Angel who has redeemed me from all evil, Bless the lads; Let my name be named upon them, And the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; And let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth." Now when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; so he took hold of his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. And Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father, for this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head." But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations." So he blessed them that day, saying, "By you Israel will bless, saying, 'May God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh!'" And thus he set Ephraim before Manasseh.*

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All throughout Scripture they laid hands to impart the family blessing. God told Abraham, “I will bless thee and make your name great, and thou shall be a blessing. And all the nations of the earth shall be blessed before thee, and receive impartation from generation to generation, by the laying on of hands, Abraham to Isaac, Isaac to Jacob.” (paraphrasing Genesis 12:2-3)

When Isaac blessed Jacob, remember they got switched around and Isaac released the blessing through the laying on of hands, and when he released the blessing of the first born it was transferred. Nothing they could do about it. It was done. The power of the blessing through the laying on of hands. (Genesis 27)

I want to speak this to every father out there. It’s time the fathers begin to understand the power of the transfer of blessing. It’s time for you to begin to lay hands on your children and begin to bless them. Begin to speak and release the blessing upon them. There is a power in the blessing.

The blessing is not fame, the blessing is the power to prosper. The blessing is the supernatural power to prosper.

Genesis 1:28 *Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

He released the blessing on them and the thing that Adam and Eve lost in the garden was the blessing; the power to prosper. It is the one thing God has been trying to get back to us ever since. That’s why he called Abraham to begin the process of the restoration to bring the lineage, to bring Jesus to pass. God told Abraham He would bless him and all the nations of the earth would be blessed through him. God wanted to restore the blessing, the power to prosper that Adam and Eve lost in the garden back to the earth because man must have His blessing in order to fulfill His destiny.

Same chapter when He said let there be light and there was light; let there be land and there was land, let there be separation between the sky and the sea, let there be animals, let there be, let there be, let there be. And then He turned to Adam and Eve and said be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, subdue it, have dominion over it.

Don’t take the laying on of hands and the impartation lightly. It is a sacred holy ministry. You that are laying on of hands, you should take it seriously before God. You who are receiving it, you also need to take it that way, receive before God.

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Father, I just pray right now, God that you would continue to release the blessing from generation to generation, from person to person, God, from nation to nation. Father continue to release the power of the blessing through the laying on of hands. Amen.

For Further Study:

1 Timothy 5:22 *Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.*

Mark 5:25-30 *Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well." Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My clothes?"*