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Laying On of Hands

I INTRODUCTION:

- a. I Tim 5:22* - Why? What does it mean?
- b. Heb 6:1-2 - Laying on of Hands is one of the basic foundation doctrines taught and practiced by the Church. Why? What does Laying on of Hands mean?

(* Note: The three instructions in the same sentence (1. Lay hands... 2. Neither be... 3. Keep thyself pure.) have significance. Because it has such important meaning, Laying on of Hands should not be administered hastily. Carefully consider the purpose, the circumstances and the character of the recipient with caution that our motive and character as a participant will not be compromised.)

II Laying on of Hands is a means to impart a physical or spiritual blessing.

- a. National, material, physical to and through individuals.

Gen. 27 - Isaac to Jacob

Gen. 48 - Jacob to Ephraim and Manasseh

Explain:

- (1) Isaac was blind to the deception of Jacob. He was guiltless (pure) in his part. Yet when he had a question of veracity he allowed Jacob to vouch for himself. Perhaps a lesson for us - consider another's counsel or recommendation when uncertain.
- (2) When it came time for nearly blind Jacob to pass the blessing on to his grandsons he "guided his hands wittingly". When his son Joseph checked him, Jacob said "I know my son, I know". He was therefore careful in imparting the blessing correctly.

Comment: In many cultures today and in some Israel nations until recent times the Laying on of Hands by the father to impart blessings is and was a somewhat common occurrence,

- b. To impart a blessing to little children.

Matt 19:13-15 - Example of Jesus

Mark 10:13-16 - Jesus knew little children needed special protection. He loved them and encouraged them to come to him. (Be separate and consecrated).

Comment: Explain our practice, when, how, age, etc.

- c. To impart the Holy Spirit and Gifts.

Acts 8:18 - To the Samaritans

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Acts 9:17 - To Paul through Ananias

Acts 1.9:6 - To the Ephesians through Paul

II Tim 1:6-7 - To Timothy through Paul

*I Tim 4:14 - Timothy received a gift through Paul

(* Notice three things:

1. The gift in Timothy - whether it was a special gift beyond the begetting of the Holy Spirit is unclear. If it was, then perhaps for special needs in the Church, gifts can be specifically imparted.
2. It was imparted with a word of inspired Godly commission (prophecy).
3. With the Laying on of Hands of the combined ministry.)

The Gifts of the Spirit is a separate study.

Quote from James 1:17 - "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights..". So, it is God that imparts the gift, not man. Men are agents, conduits, acting in His name. Use wisdom and faith.

III To impart ordination and/or consecration.

a. Ordination:

I Sam 16:1,13 - King - David

Lev 8:1-30 - Priest - Aaron

Num 8:6-19 - Levites - the tribe a gift to the nations

Acts 6:6 - Deacons - Seven at Jerusalem

Titus 1:5 - Elders - ordain

Mark 3:13-15 - Matt 10:1-2 - 12 Apostles ordained

*Acts 13:1-4 - Apostles - Paul and Barnabas

(*Notice: Paul and Barnabas were ordained by the Laying on of Hands of the prophets and teachers in the Antioch congregation, not by the Jerusalem (headquarters) congregation. They were sent out (apostle) on a mission by the Antioch congregation.

The apostleship is a separate study.

Sometimes ordination is accomplished with anointing.

b. Consecration (set apart):

- (1) On sacrifices and offerings: Lev 1:1-4 - The offerer transfers his guilt (sin) to the sacrifice. The atonement process. Jesus takes our sins on himself and we become justified. It required personal involvement from the hand of each offerer.

Comment: Today our hand gives dollar offerings with prayer. Sometimes Herbert W. Armstrong prayed over the Plain Truth magazine and laid hands on them to bless them before mailing.

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- (2) On criminals, blasphemers, wicked, idolators (to set them apart for judgement and execution):
Lev 24:10-22, Due 17:7, Duet 13:6-11 These sinners shall bear their guilt. The witnesses lay hands on them to bear public witness of their innocence and the sinner's guilt. Warning - a true witness. Don't participate in other's sins. Keep thyself pure. I Tim 5:22

IV To impart healing.

- a. Luke 4:40 - Jesus used this method
- b. Mark 3:13-16, 16:18 - 12 Apostles used
- c. James 5:14-16 - Elders to use
- d. Acts 9:10,11, 17-18 - Paul by Ananias*
- e. Acts 19:10-12 - Anointed cloths

(* Ananias, a disciple (layman-student) used Laying on of Hands to heal, to impart the Holy Spirit, and to baptize an Apostle. Ananias was not a minister. Paul was not such a big shot in his own eyes that he had to have "someone important" to minister to him.)

V Conclusion/Review:

- a. The Laying on of Hands is to:
 - (1) Impart blessings to individuals. children, the begetting of the Holy Spirit and Spiritual gifts.
 - (2) Impart ordinations and consecrations
 - (3) Impart healings.
- b. Points to consider:
 - (1) It is an important part of the salvation/atonement process, i.e. repentance. faith, baptisms, Laying on of Hands, etc. (Heb 6:1-2).
 - (2) It is an outward sign (as baptism) in public or private of a special separation and imparting. See Numbers 8 and Leviticus 8 of the public separation, ordination, anointing with the Laying on of Hands for the Priesthood and Levitical order. The public practice is acceptable, although at times private (not secret) ceremony is appropriate due to certain circumstances.
 - (3) It conveys an important truth, that God works through men. We learn lessons of humility, submission to authority, dedication and consecration, separation and ordination to offices of service, and gifts of the Spirit.
 - (4) The act of imparting or transferring something to someone in a orderly and acceptable fashion in a public witness destroys the secret self-appointed position of importance some might try to invent for themselves,
 - (5) When Laying on of hands is properly administered in the name of God through faith, in a Spirit of harmony, mutual respect, trust, and submission expressed in the right way, special benefits and blessings will be imparted.

Published by:
The Churches of God Outreach Ministries
PO Box 54621
Tulsa, OK 74155-0621
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