

06.08.2008 (Sun)

Laying on of Hands (Ac 19:1-7)

Laying on of hands was an action as setting one apart to serve the Lord in a special way. Isaac blessed his son Jacob by laying hands (Gen 27). And, Jacob served God's special purpose for him by becoming Israel thru his struggles in life.

Throughout the Biblical times the laying hands on someone was a way to set a person apart for special service or particular ministry. Kings and prophets and priests were ordained by the act of anointing.

Sometimes they were ordained by the laying on of hands (Dt 34:9). In the New Testament, for example, Stephen along with six other chosen men were ordained or set apart by prayer and laying on of hands by the apostles (Ac 6:3-6).

*In biblical times the laying on of hands was an action which conferred blessing or power. Laying on of hands was not for a show. Let's get that out of the way. Laying on of hands is an action given by faith and received by faith. It is an action by faith.*

It is the act of laying hands on a person's head to confer the spiritual blessing. *The head represents Jesus Christ! Jesus is the head of the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead (Col 1:18).* The laying on of hands represents ***the power of the Holy Spirit bestowed upon the believer.***

**(1) *It gives strength.***

The mount on which Jesus transfigured is the Mount Tabor, where Moses and Elijah appeared and talked with Jesus about His exodus. Peter, John and James saw this wonderful scene but were overwhelmed by it and became very sleepy (Lk 9:32).

Then, a cloud came and enveloped them. They were afraid as they entered the cloud and heard a voice from it. But, Jesus came and *touched* them, and they regained their strength (Mt 17:6-7).

Daniel's strength was gone and became breathless as he was receiving the vision of God. Then, the one who looked like a man came and *touched* him and gave him the strength to be restored (Dan 10:18). When the hand of God touches you by Word and you received it by faith there is the power of wisdom that strengthens you to overcome all fear and worries.

**(2) *It sets apart.***

In the Old Testament we find many kinds of sacrifices including burnt offerings and sin offerings. But, no matter what kind of offering it is to be sacrificed to the Lord the priests had to lay their hands on its head (Lev 1:4, 8:14, Num 8:12).

The Lord accepts that are set apart for God from the world. It is possible *only by faith!* That's the lesson. *Only by faith!* That's the message. The worshiper gives his or her worship by faith. *The laying on of hands is the manifestation of God setting you apart for His purpose in you!*

**(3) It heals.**

If you look at the healing of Jesus on the sick you would find instances where Jesus only spoke His word to them and they were made well. Then, there were times when Jesus laid His hands on them (Lk 4:40). The results were the same. They all got healed. *Once again, the laying on of hands is an action by faith!*

When the daughter of Jarius was dying, he came to Jesus, asking only to lay His hands on her so she could be healed (Mk 5:23). "and pleaded earnestly with him, my daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live!"

In Lk 13:12-13 we find a woman who had been crippled by a spirit for 18 years. Jesus said to her "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity." Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God."

**(4) It overcomes.**

Families and nations have problems of big and small. Some are giant problems. But, what made Joshua overcome the giants in the Canaan? He received the power of God thru Moses' laying on hands.

Moses laid his hands on him as Joshua was chosen to be his successor and lead the people of God into the Promised Land. "Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the Lord had commanded Moses" (Dt 34:9).

Only after receiving of the heavenly power was he confident and successful in conquering every place he set his foot on (Jos 1:3). The hand of God is upon the faithful!

**(5) It imparts spiritual gifts.**

There are many kinds of gifts. As seekers of heavenly kingdom our spiritual gifts are for the common good. Let's hear from 1 Cor 12:7-11.

"Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit,

to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as He determines.”

But, you know what? *The best gift of all gifts is love.* Just a moment ago, I said that all gifts are for the common good. What common good? The building up of the church (1 Cor 14:12)! All the gifts would be worthless if you don't know how to love.

Listen carefully to what 1 Cor 13:1-2 says: *“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.”*

### **(6) It is the touch of God.**

Aaron blessed the people of God by lifting his hands toward them (Lev 9:22). Our Lord blessed His disciples by lifting up His hands toward them as He ascended into heaven (Lk 24:50-51).

“When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.”

The receiving of the benediction at the end of the worship service is the laying on of God's hand upon the worshiper. It is the touch of God upon your hearts. So don't hurry and rush for the door when you're receiving the blessing of God thru the benediction.

*Today, the touch of God is upon you!* Receive the heavenly blessings and share the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit with all the people you've met in the past and the ones you'll meet.

### **(7) It is the power of the Holy Spirit.**

Ac 19:6 says “When the Apostle Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them.” The Spirit comes to whoever believes in Jesus Christ actively, spiritually and sincerely.

In Gen 48:14 we find Jacob blessing the two sons of Joseph by laying his hands on them. Now the writer of Hebrews explains that it was by faith that Jacob blessed Joseph's sons.

The laying on of hands is by faith. Jesus never His hands on anyone who did not believe in the Word (Mk 6:5, Mt 13:58). Are you holding on to the head? *The laying of hands is on the head. The head is Jesus Christ! May the power of the Holy Spirit lead you and empower you to do the right thing today and everyday!*