



Foundations Student Notes

Lesson 6 – Laying on of Hands

Early in the Old Testament, we see certain individuals physically placing their hands on others to convey some kind of blessing or commissioning:

📖 *Genesis 48.12-20, Deuteronomy 34.9, Numbers 27.18-23*

In the New Testament, we see Jesus frequently laying hands on others in order to perform miraculous healings:

📖 *Matthew 9.18-31, Mark 8.22-26, Mark 6.5-6, Luke 4.40-41*

There are many other similar passages throughout the four gospels. Although there are also many instances where Jesus heals **without** physical contact, Jesus' touch seems to play an important role in certain healings. We also see this power at work through the other disciples in the New Testament:

📖 *Acts 3.1-10, Acts 9.17-19, Mark 16.14-20*

In cases where a member of the Church is ill, James gives us instructions on how to seek God's healing:

📖 *James 5.14-16*

The laying on of hands is also exercised in many Biblical occurrences of baptism in the Holy Spirit, and Paul speaks of it as a means of **imparting spiritual gifts**:

📖 *Acts 8.14-19, Acts 19.1-7, Romans 1.11-12, 2 Timothy 1.6, 1 Timothy 4.14*

Similarly, believers who were called by God to a specific task or role would have hands laid on them as an **act of commissioning** them:

📖 *Acts 6.1-6, Acts 13.1-4*

We are also **warned** about our use of the laying on of hands:

📖 *1 Timothy 5.22*

We should be cautious in laying hands on others, since God works so powerfully through it. Any disciple can lay hands on another, but should **only** do so through the **leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit**. In addition, the person whom hands are being laid on must be ready to receive whatever it is that God wants to give them.