

Foundations Lesson #16A

The Laying On of Hands

God loves to bless his people and impart various aspects of his nature to them. The doctrine of the laying on of hands shows us that one of the ways God chooses to impart these things is by having one of his servants lay hands on another believer.

I. the laying on of hands: to accommodate an impartation of blessing

- healing
 - Matthew 8:2-3, 20:32-34 / Mark 6:5-6, 16:17-18 / Luke 4:40, 22:50-51 / Acts 28:8
- the baptism in the Holy Spirit
 - Acts 8:14-20 / Acts 9:17-19 / Acts 19:6
- the blessing of children
 - Mark 10:13-16 / Genesis 48:12-20
- the grace needed to do a new job or ministry well
 - Numbers 8:9-11 / Acts 6:3-6 / Acts 13:1-3
- the bestowing of spiritual gifts
 - I Timothy 4:14 / II Timothy 1:6

II. the laying on of hands: to accommodate an impartation of transfer

- under the old covenant: sin transferred to a sacrificial animal
 - Leviticus 16:20-22 (see also Leviticus 1:3-4, 3:1-2, 6-8, 12-13, 4:3-4, 13-15, etc.)
- authority transferred from a leader to his replacement
 - Numbers 27:15-23 / Deuteronomy 34:9

III. two cautions

- Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands. – I Timothy 5:22
- In each one of the New Testament accounts of the laying on of hands, this ministry was carried out by someone of mature spiritual stature: Jesus, the apostles, Ananias, the prophets and teachers at Antioch, Paul, or the body of elders. However, Mark 16:17-18 indicates that those who *believe* are the ones who participate in this ministry.