

# The Path - Basic Christian Doctrine

## Day 12: Laying on of hands

We have been studying the six fundamental doctrines of Christianity found in Hebrews 5:12 - 6:3. Today we will study the fourth doctrine listed: the laying on of hands.

1. Jesus blessed children and healed the sick through the “laying on of hands”. Please note the following scriptures:
  - a. Matt 19:13-15 - “Then were there brought unto him little children that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, suffer the little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. And he \_\_\_\_\_ his hands on them, and departed thence.”
  - b. Mark 5:23 - “And besought him greatly, saying, my daughter lieth at the point of death; I pray thee, come and \_\_\_\_\_ thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live.
  - c. Mark 6:5 - “And he could there do no mighty work, save that he \_\_\_\_\_ his hands upon a few sick folks, and healed them.”
  - d. Mark 16:18 - “They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay \_\_\_\_\_ on the sick, and they shall recover.”
  - e. Luke 4:40 - “Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his \_\_\_\_\_ on every one of them, and healed them.”
  - f. Luke 13:13 - “And he (Jesus) \_\_\_\_\_ his hand on her; and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.”
2. The Apostles also used the “laying on of hands” in their ministry:
  - a. Acts 8:17-18 - “then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. And when Simon saw that through, laying on of the \_\_\_\_\_ hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money. The Holy Ghost was given through the laying on of hands.”
  - b. Acts 19:6 - “And when Paul had \_\_\_\_\_ his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them: and they spake with tongues and prophesied.”

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- c. 1 Timothy 4:14 - "Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the presbytery." The gift of prophecy was given to Timothy by the laying on of the apostles' hands.
3. Christians are instructed to request the elders of the church to anoint and pray for them when ill. This is found in James 5:13-15:
- a. "Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any merry? Let him sing songs. Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church: and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up: and if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."

**Discussion:**

- 1. Why do you think God chose the laying on of hands to impart special gifts to people?**
- 2. What are some of the various miracles that God performed through Jesus and the apostles through the laying on of hands?**
- 3. Why do you think that "laying on of hands" is included in this list of basic Christian doctrines?**
- 4. How important do you think it is that we "call for the elders of the church" for prayer when we are sick?**
- 5. Have you ever personally witnessed or experienced a miraculous touch of God through the "laying on of hands"?**