

Laying on of Hands

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Elementary Principle of Christianity

- Heb 6:1-2

1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,¹ **2** Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

Uses of Laying on of Hands in Scripture

- Blessing
- Ordination
- Healing
- For Sacrifices
- Baptism

Blessing

- What does it mean to Bless
 - **Gen 1:22** And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.
 - **Gen 2:3** And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.¹
 - **Gen 24:48** And I bowed down my head, and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, which had led me in the right way to take my master's brother's daughter unto his son.

Blessing

- Blessings used to be taken very seriously
 - Gen 27:41 And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob.
- Blessing conducted with the ceremony of the laying on of hands: Gen 48:13-22

Blessing

And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought *them* near unto him. **14** And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid *it* upon Ephraim's head, who *was* the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh *was* the firstborn. **15** And he blessed Joseph, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day, **16** The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth. **17** And when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him: and he held up his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head unto Manasseh's head.³

Blessing

18 And Joseph said unto his father, Not so, my father: for this *is* the firstborn; put thy right hand upon his head. **19** And his father refused, and said, I know *it*, my son, I know *it*: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations. **20** And he blessed them that day, saying, In thee shall Israel bless, saying, God make thee as Ephraim and as Manasseh: and he set Ephraim before Manasseh. **21** And Israel said unto Joseph, Behold, I die: but God shall be with you, and bring you again unto the land of your fathers. **22** Moreover I have given to thee one portion above thy brethren, which I took out of the hand of the Amorite with my sword and with my bow.

Blessing of the Children

- Matt 19:13-15

13 Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put *his* hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. **14** But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. **15** And he laid *his* hands on them, and departed thence.

Ordination

- When referring to ordination I mean the setting apart a person for an office or position or the conferring upon an individuals or group of individuals a task.

Ordination of Joshua

- Num 27:18

18 And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom *is* the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him; **19** And set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight. **20** And thou shalt put *some* of thine honour upon him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient. **21** And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask *counsel* for him after the judgment of Urim before the LORD: at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in, *both* he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation. **22** And Moses did as the LORD commanded him: and he took Joshua, and set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation: **23** And he laid his hands upon him, and gave him a charge, as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses.

Ordination of the Levites

- **Num 8:9-11** And thou shalt bring the Levites before the tabernacle of the congregation: and thou shalt gather the whole assembly of the children of Israel together: **10** And thou shalt bring the Levites before the LORD: and the children of Israel shall put their hands upon the Levites: **[NET Notes, TSK] 11** And Aaron shall offer the Levites before the LORD *for* an offering of the children of Israel, that they may execute the service of the LORD.²

Ordination in Jewish Culture

- Teachers of the Law
- Judges
- Sanhedrin

New Testament Church

- **Ordination of the Deacons**

Acts 6:3-6 **3** Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. **4** But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. **5** And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: **6** Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid *their* hands on them

New Testament Church

- **1 Tim 4:14** **14** Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery
- **Acts 13:1-3** **1** Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.¹ **2** As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. **3** And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid *their* hands on them, they sent *them* away

Healing

- **Mark 5:22-24** ²² And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet, ²³ And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: *I pray thee*, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live. ²⁴ And *Jesus* went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him.
- **Luke 4:40** ⁴⁰ Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them

Sacrifices

- Burnt Offering

- **Lev 1:1-5** **1** And the LORD called unto Moses, and spake unto him out of the tabernacle of the congregation, saying, **2** Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, If any man of you bring an offering unto the LORD, ye shall bring your offering of the cattle, *even* of the herd, and of the flock. **3** If his offering *be* a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish: he shall offer it of his own voluntary will at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD. **4** And he shall put his hand upon the head of the burnt offering; and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him. **5** And he shall kill the bullock before the LORD: and the priests, Aaron's sons, shall bring the blood, and sprinkle the blood round about upon the altar that *is by* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation

Atonement Sacrifice

- The High Priest offered a sin offering for himself.
- The “Scape-goat”

Freewill Offerings

- On freewill offerings instead of a confession of sin instead of a confession of sins, praise to God was offered.
- **Rom 12:1** **1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service

Baptism

- **Acts 8:14-25** **14** Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: **15** Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: **16** (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) **17** Then laid they *their* hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. **18** And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, **19** Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. **20** But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. **21** Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

Baptism

22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. **23** For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and *in* the bond of iniquity. **24** Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me. **25** And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.

Reiki and Shakipat

(Spiritual Counterfeits)

- Reiki Buddhist healing practice, in which one lays their hands on the person to be healed.
- Shakipat – practice in Hinduism in which one transfers spiritual energy to another person through the laying on of hands.

Summary

- Foundational Principle
- Should be accompanied by prayer, done before the Lord.
- Should be used and be relevant today.