

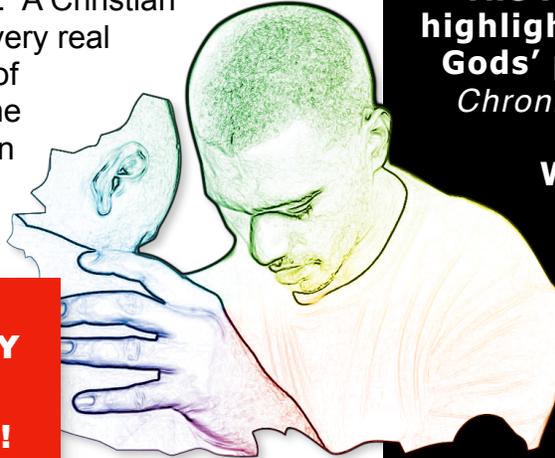
## Key Text:

**Hebrews 6:1-3**

“Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of **...the laying on of hands**...And God permitting, we will do so.”

## What is the “The Laying On Of Hands”?

The phrase, “laying on of hands” is a title used in the Bible to refer to the action of one believer placing his or her hands on another person for at least three reasons. The most frequent reasons include: Giving a **Blessing** (*which includes the impartation of Gifts*), **Ordaining** a person into ministry, and for **Healing**. There is nothing magical about the action itself. Rather, it is a persons’ faith in God Almighty being expressed through the hands of an obedient believer that makes it significant. A Christian can know with confidence that there is a very real exchange taking place between the God of heaven and the person being touched. The ministry(*service*) of laying on of hands is in both the Old and New Testaments.



**THIS IS A MINISTRY FOR EVERY BELIEVER BECAUSE THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AT HAND!**

## WHY DOES GOD NEED OUR HANDS?

From a skeptical viewpoint, one could say that God doesn't need a person's hands to achieve blessings, ordinations or healings and they would be technically correct. But, that perspective misses the whole point which is, “**The Laying On of Hands**” is **RELATIONAL**. God doesn't need our hands, it just pleases Him to work through them. The Laying On of Hands becomes a tangible way for people to “feel” the touch of God in their life. It becomes more than just a spiritual truth, it is a physical experience which marks the blessing or healing. This demands

that someone be physically present as Christ's ambassador, smiling & testifying to God's power. You are invited as a Christian to be the visible representation of Christ to the world around you. Think of your hands as an electrical wire. By itself the wire *and your hands* are ineffective, but when the electrical wire is connected on one end to a power source and touching a light socket at the other end...there is LIGHT. **God is the source of power and your hands are simply the wire, together they form a powerful testimony that God is with us!**

(Acts 19:11; John 14:12-14; Mark 16:18)



## The Symbolism of The Hand

**In short, the hand is a symbol throughout Biblical literature for “POWER”. This includes power that is good and bad. The Hand of God is often highlighted when speaking of Gods’ power. (Exodus 15:6; 1 Chronicles 29:12; Psalm 60:5)**

**When we read that God will “stretch out his hand against...” someone as in Exodus 7:5 we understand that God's hand brings pain & destruction.**

**The hand of God can also be a powerful symbol of blessing & help. So it is no surprise to read statements like, “The good hand of the Lord was with Him.” Ezra 7:9 or “The hand of the Lord was with them...” Acts 11:21.**

**Whenever we read that “The hand of the Lord was UPON” someone (i.e. 1 Kings 18:46; 2 Kings 3:15) it means power from God is apparently working through them. The evidence for supernatural help is clear.**

**So, what would you rather have? The hand of the Lord helping you or hurting you?**

## HOW DO YOU DO IT?



Keep it simple... **First, lift up your hands in surrender to God.** It is through personal prayer and worship that you are unified with the heart of God. If you do not stay connected to God or rather “In Step” with His Spirit, you will be disappointed with the outcome of any ministry. Remember to also keep your “Hands” clean through confession and with fresh obedience. (1 Tim. 2:8; Acts 13:3; 28:8; Psa. 119:48, 134:2; John 15:7; Psa. 24:4)

**Second, use your hands in balance with your level of faith and authority.** Its very natural to be trained and for you to be able to do more as your faith and experience grow. Sometimes people pray and nothing happens, it's OK and remember that people are growing. (John 14:13-14; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:8-30; 1 Peter 4:10; Matt. 21:22; Mark 9:29)

**Finally, JUST DO IT!** As a believer in Christ, you must start today! Everyone must start blessing others, and choose to make it a goal to pursue more spiritual gifts. You may not have silver or Gold but you do have the power of God inside you, so lay hands on someone. (Acts 3:6)

**To BLESS: “To endow with power for success, prosperity, fertility, long-life etc.”**

In Jewish culture, the father would place his hands on his children and speak a blessing over them about their future. (**Genesis 49:1-28; Leviticus 9:22; Luke 24:50; Matt.**

**19:13**) Spiritually speaking, any believer may place his hands on someone or simply raise his hand towards someone and speak God's favor over them. **An Impartation** is different and it is when something is awarded or given to an individual through a type of blessing. With regard to the spiritual gifts mentioned in **1 Corinthians 12:8-10**; Established ministers or fathers in the faith may place hands on a believer and speak prophetically over them. This is when the “**Impartation of Spiritual Gifts**” happens and the Holy Spirit deposits a measure of spiritual gifts needed for success and blessing. (**See Acts 19:6; Romans 1:11; 1 Tim.4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6**).

**To HEAL: The Cure of Sickness & Disease, the relief of demonic possession and all other infirmities.** To do this there is no need for special anointing oils or even a healing service...just your hands and faith in the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus gave authority to his disciples to lay hands on the sick and see them recover. instructed to call ministers whenever we are sick so that a person will laying on of hands and recover. A problem like...the serious effects of unbelief is important to note. Jesus could not do many miracles or healing because of peoples unbelief. Matthew 13:58. So remember that the prayer of a righteous man just like you can move mountains. (**James 5:14-16; Luke 4:40; 7:21-22; Acts 5:16; Mark 6:5; 7:32; 16:18.**)

**To ORDAIN: Publicly separating a person from the world's purposes and dedicating him for the ministry.**

The Biblical model for ordination is simple. **Established ministry affirms New ministry through the laying on of hands.** (See Numbers 27:18-23; 1 Timothy 4:14; 1 Samuel 16:13; Acts 6:6; 13:3) The method is straightforward: First, established ministers should direct a church service after having spent time in prayer and fasting. Then, a qualified candidate is presented for ordination. (*Which means someone who is saved, water-baptized, filled with the Holy Spirit and proven within the church.*) (see. 1 Tim. 3:2-7; Titus 1:5-9) Finally, the individual is prayed over with the laying on of hands and celebrated before being released to function in the ministry. It is also right to expect affirmation of the ordination to include, spiritual blessings and various proofs that God's hand is upon the minister.

**Caution: “Do not expect to be ordained until tested & proven.”** The worst thing is to publicly state that God's hand is upon someone's ministry when in fact that individual has not proven themselves to be faithful stewards of the grace of God. See 1 Tim. 5:22 “**Do not do it quickly**”

### BLESSING

Jesus put his arms around the children and blessed them by *placing his hands on them.*  
Mark 10:16

### HEALING

“...they will *place their hands on sick people,* and they will get well.” Mark 16:18

We are also receive the ministry of the

### ORDAINING

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. Deut. 34:9