

# LAYING ON OF HANDS

BY KENNETH HAGIN

"Twenty-five years ago God spoke to me about a ministry of laying on of hands," a minister associated with a certain pentecostal organization said to me. "But you know," he continued, "I backed off from it. Even though God used me in it. Some of the brethren didn't understand and I didn't want to make a doctrine out of it."

"You didn't have to," I said, "Jesus made a doctrine out of it." And those who will not accept Christ's doctrine are in serious shape spiritually.

## HEBREWS 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,

2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

"Laying on of hands" is one of the half dozen fundamental principles of the doctrine of our Lord Jesus Christ. They are listed in Hebrews 6:1-2:

### 1) Repentance

What would you think if I were to say, "I do not believe in the doctrine of repentance?" You'd be ready to withdraw fellowship from me.

### 2) Faith Toward God

The Bible says, "By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8-9). What if I were to assert, "I don't much believe in faith." You'd say, "We can't be saved without it. Something's wrong with him. Better watch that fellow."

### 3) Doctrine of Baptisms

I call your attention to the fact it's in the plural--baptisms. It includes first, the new birth. For when one is born again he is baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ. Second, it includes water baptism. Being baptized in water is an outward sign of an inward grace. Third, it includes the baptism in the Holy Ghost with the Bible evidence of speaking in other tongues. If I said I didn't much believe in the new birth, water baptism, or the baptism in the Holy Spirit, you'd be ready to quit me right now. I wouldn't blame you.

### 4) Laying on of Hands

Let's skip over this for a minute.

### 5) Resurrection of the Dead

Notice it doesn't say "the" resurrection. It says, "and of resurrection of the dead." Had it said, "the resurrection," there'd be just one doctrine and one resurrection. But there's more than one resurrection. So it simply says, "resurrection of the dead."

This includes the first resurrection, the second resurrection, and all other resurrections. It includes the fact that we're looking for Christ to come, and the dead in Christ who shall be raised first. We which are alive and remain--the rapture of the saints--are included too. You would be certain something was wrong with me if I were to say, "Oh, I don't think the dead will ever be resurrected."

### 6) Eternal Judgment

Again notice he didn't say, "the" doctrine of "the" eternal judgment. The word "the" is not there. It's just simply doctrine "of eternal judgment." That's because there is more than one judgment. All of them are involved in this doctrine. About seven judgments are spoken of in the New Testament. All of them are included in this one doctrine.

How would you feel toward me if I were to say, "I don't go along with this judgment business. I don't think there's going to be any judgment."

You'd say, "There's something wrong with that fellow. He's not solid. He doesn't believe the fundamental principles of the doctrine of Christ."

No matter what else we believe, we must believe the fundamentals. I can fellowship with anybody that believes the fundamentals.

**N**ow, consider this please. Right in the center of these fundamental principles of the doctrine of Christ is one called "...and of laying on of hands..."

But I've heard some Full Gospel ministers say, "I don't much go along with that." That's a serious thing. To deny any one of the fundamental principles of the doctrine of Jesus Christ is a serious thing.

It is a doctrine which has been greatly neglected. How many sermons have you heard

on the subject?

Yet the Word of God has a great deal to say about the laying on of hands. It's surprising that some Christians see no significance at all in this scriptural ordinance and doctrine. Others regard it with something like astonishment--and some even with fear. Why? I don't know. Because it is one of the half dozen fundamental doctrines of the Lord Jesus Christ as laid down in Hebrews 6:2. Something mighty occurs when men of faith lay hands in the name of the Lord upon those who in faith receive the impartation.

I know, of course, there is an unprofitable kind of laying on of hands. We have two extremes of it in the church world. (It seems the hardest thing in the world to maintain balance in any realm relative to the scriptures.)

We see it on one extreme as a mere piece of ritual. There are churches with a form and a ritual of laying hands upon people to confirm them in the church. According to some church creeds, one receives the Holy Ghost at that time. But this is a mere ritual and formality and nothing at all happens.

On the other hand there have been extremities even in Full Gospel and Pentecostal circles. I know folks have had hands laid on them for nearly everything you could mention--and some you couldn't--with almost everything you could mention supposedly imparted to them.

One woman in California went into somebody's meeting where hands were laid on her, she was prophesied over, and supposedly given the gift of casting out permanent waves. (I said if she could have gotten the gift of putting them in she'd have had something.) I call that laying empty hands on empty heads.

The real is not done away with, however, because of the excesses. I'm not going to be scared out of a New Testament practice because of formality and ritualism on one hand and fanaticism and excess on the other. I'm going to practice New Testament methods and produce New Testament results. I'm going to lay hands New Testament style upon believers as the Holy Ghost directs in the name of Jesus Christ and produce New Testament results.

\* It is scriptural to lay hands upon those who are ordained to the ministry. They laid hands on those who were separated to be deacons in the book of Acts.

\* It is scriptural to lay hands upon the sick for healing. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself freely employed the use of laying on of hands in healing.

MARK 6:5

5 And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.

In His home town of Nazareth, the few who were healed were healed by the laying on of Christ's hands.

MATTHEW 8:15

15 And he touched her hand and the fever left her; and she arose, and ministered unto them.

Jesus evidently laid His hand upon the hand of Peter's mother-in-law.

MARK 8:22-25

22 And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him. (i.e., to put His hand upon him.)

23 And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw aught.

24 And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking.

25 After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.

I want to call your attention to more than one fact here.

First, "they" refers to a group of people. "They" is plural. "They" brought this blind man and besought Jesus to touch him--in other words to put His hand upon him. These people believed in laying on of hands. If you want to get laying on of hands to work for you--you've got to believe in it. If you think it doesn't amount to anything, then it won't amount to anything. And you won't receive anything. These people believed in divine healing. They besought Jesus to lay His hands upon him.

Secondly--someone has said, "Jesus prayed for that man twice." I do not know that He prayed for him at all. For the Bible doesn't say that He prayed. The Bible says He laid His hand on him twice.

I was preaching in a large city sometime ago, and a pastor in the city brought his little daughter, then about 8 years old, to the meeting. She was cross-eyed.

When I asked how long her eyes had been crossed he said, "When she was born you could tell her eyes were weak. She couldn't focus them. In about six months her eyes crossed. They've been crossed ever since. She's worn glasses, but they're still crossed."

So I laid my hands upon her eyes and prayed. And I felt that warm glow of God's healing presence and power and anointing flow out of my hands into those eyes.

I said to the little one and to the pastor, "There it is. There's her healing." I took my hands off her eyes and both of them were as straight as could be. I called her father's attention to it. He looked at her eyes and saw they were straight. I called for the pastor of the church where the meeting was being held to look at them.

"Yes," he said, "they're straight."

I asked some of the folks on the front seat to look.

"Yes, they're straight," they all agreed.

And just about that time--the left eye began to cross. The right one stayed straight. But the left eye crossed until it looked like she was looking right across the bridge of her nose.

I said to the congregation, "This left eye is crossed. They were straight there for 3 or 4 minutes."

What am I going to do? Oh, thank God, we are not left without light, without help. On the inside of me, real quickly, I said, "Lord, what am I going to do?"

And on the inside of me the Holy Spirit said, "Jesus laid His hands on that blind man twice. The first time he wasn't completely delivered. The second time he could see."

So I said to the folks, "Well, thank God, I know what to do." (You see, it's not us doing anything. It's God through us.)

I called their attention to that scripture, put my hands on her eyes and that eye came straight and stayed straight.

After the services, 40 minutes later, people were talking and visiting and looking into her eyes--and they were still straight.

It is scripturally all right to put your hands a second time on folks.

**MARK 7:32-33**

32 And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech him to put his hand upon him,

33 And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue;

Again, I call your attention that "they" bring one. These all believed in laying on of hands. It makes a difference when people believe in laying on of hands. It doesn't say they besought Jesus to heal him--though that's inferred--it says they besought Him to put His hand on him.

Jesus took him aside, put His fingers in his ears, spit, and touched his tongue. His fingers are part of His hands. So He did put His hands on him. And his ears were opened and the string of his tongue was loosed.

**MARK 5:22-23**

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.

Jairus believed in laying on of hands. He didn't say, "Come and pray for her that she may be healed." He didn't even say, "Come and heal her." He said, "Come and lay thy hands on her that she may be healed." He believed in laying on of hands. He asked Jesus to lay His hands upon her. We know, of course, she died before He could get there. But the 41st verse says, "And he took the damsel by the hand,..." Praise God.

The Lord Jesus definitely exhorts believers to employ the laying on of hands in healing: "And these signs shall follow them that believe; ...they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover..." (Mark 16:17-18).

The disciples obviously took Jesus quite seriously because Acts 5:12 says, "And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people;..." By the hands. By the hands of the apostles.

In Acts 28 Paul is shipwrecked on an island. The father-in-law of the chief man of the island was sick of a fever and a bloody flux. In verse 8 we read, "...to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him." The man was healed by laying on of hands. Then the Bible tells us they brought the sick from throughout the island. And Paul ministered to them. It doesn't say how, but obviously he ministered the same way; by laying on of hands.

**ACTS 19:11-12**

11 And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:

12 So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

Here, not only were the sick healed, but the demonized were delivered as cloths Paul had laid his hands on were laid upon their bodies. When we talk about the anointed cloths, we don't mean anointed with oil. Paul didn't anoint cloths with oil. These cloths were anointed with the same power Paul was anointed with. He laid his hands upon them. The Bible says, "And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul..." It doesn't say, "Paul wrought special miracles by the hands of God..." God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul. God uses men's hands. He works by man's hands.

It is scriptural to lay hands on believers to receive the Holy Spirit.

The Word of God teaches also that in every single case--except the two initial, spontaneous outpourings of the Spirit upon the Jews in Acts 2 and the Gentiles in Acts 10--the baptism of the Holy Ghost and speaking in other tongues was imparted through laying on of hands.

ACTS 8:17

17 Then laid they (Peter and John) their hands on them, and they (the Samaritans) received the Holy Ghost.

ACTS 19:6

6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

ACTS 9:17

17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

Saul's eyes were healed by laying on of hands and he received the Holy Ghost by laying on of hands. We know he spoke with tongues because he wrote a letter later to the Corinthians and said, "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:" (I Cor. 14:18).

#### TWO-FOLD MANNER/LAYING ON HANDS

1) It is scriptural for any believer to lay hands upon a fellow believer as a point of contact. First of all, just because one knows the Word of God says, "These signs shall follow them that believe...they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover..." ANY BELIEVER can lay hands upon a fellow believer as a point of contact to release faith and expect that person to be healed.

There are people you can pray for as lay members that no one else could--neighbors, friends. Husbands certainly have the right in the nighttime, if the wife gets sick, to lay hands upon her in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. If the children are sick, their parents can lay hands on them in the Name of Jesus and pray and expect them to be healed. That is certainly scriptural.

2.) There is such a thing as a ministry of laying on of hands--a special anointing.

The first light on divine healing came to me when I was just a Baptist boy on the bed of affliction, reading Grandma's old Methodist Bible. As I began to see some things about faith and prayer, I decided to run references in my Bible on those subjects. It brought me eventually to James 5:14 which says, "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 have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him" (James 5:14-15).

In my ignorance I didn't know you didn't "have" to do that. I thought you "had" to call for somebody. With tears I cried, "Oh dear Lord, if I have to call for somebody to pray I can't be healed. I don't know anybody to call. I don't know of a church in this town, or a preacher, or anybody who even believes in praying for the sick. I don't know anybody I could call."

But thank God, He is faithful. He spoke to my spirit and said, "Did you notice that it says, 'the prayer of faith shall save the sick'?"

"Yes, it does," I said.

"Well," He said, "you can pray that prayer just as well as anybody can."

So I prayed the prayer of faith for myself and rose up healed from my affliction.

I began my ministry as a Baptist boy preacher. I preached faith and healing. It's in the Word. I pastored a community church and laid hands on the sick for healing. I didn't have public healing services at first--eventually we did--but I would teach it and preach it publicly and would lay hands and pray for them in their homes. We saw marvelous results.

Then I receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost with speaking in tongues and began to preach among Full Gospel circles--for various groups. I would hold divine healing services.

Then I pastored for a number of years. In one church we had divine healing services every Saturday night for several months. Marvelous things happened. I laid hands on folks, not because God gave me any special calling to do it, but because the Word of God taught it. And God honored faith and the practice and ordinance of laying on of hands. Many were the healings!

#### SPECIAL ANOINTING

But--there is such a thing as a ministry of laying on of hands. There is such a thing as an anointing whereby God's Power flows from your hands into the sick. There is such a thing as the Power of God being manifested through you and through your hands.

In 1950, on September 2nd, at 10:00 o'clock at night, in a tent meeting in Rockwall, Texas, as I was praying on the platform in other tongues--suddenly, I heard a voice speak unto me in the English language saying, "Come up hither. Come up hither. Come up to the throne of God."

I looked up to where the top of the tent should be and there stood Jesus. I went up. It seemed as if we stood in mid-air. Then we went on up into heaven.

(At that time I had never flown in an airplane. Three years later when I flew from Kansas City to Chicago, I said to the pastor flying with me, "Brother Noah, I had this same sensation that night in my vision." I believe in spirit I actually went up to heaven. I could see clouds as we went by. We went by clouds and through them--and I had the same sensations of being in the air as I did flying by plane three years later.)

We came up to the throne of God. And we stood about 18 feet out in front of the throne.

The first thing that attracted my attention was the rainbow above and to the back of the throne. The most beautiful thing I have ever seen. Most beautiful colors.

The second thing that attracted my attention was the winged creatures which stand on either side of the throne. Their faces looked something like a man's in a way--but they had wings which were covered with feathers. Their feet and legs, from the hips down, looked like those of a man. But the body part of these creatures was covered with feathers. The tops of their heads looked like the spire of a church steeple in that it went straight up to a point. They had eyes all the way around their heads. Eyes about as big as a quarter--and every one of them like a ball of fire. They could see in every direction at once. They were saying something, but as we walked up they stopped and folded their wings.

I looked at the rainbow first, the winged creatures second, and then I looked toward the throne. When I did, Jesus said, "Thou shalt not look upon His face."

At that there seemed to be a veil between me and the One who sat on the throne. Just as from a distance you might see a woman with a veil over her face; and you can tell she has a face but you can't tell what it looks like, even so I could see through the veil. I saw Someone sitting on the throne who had bodily parts like a man. But I could not distinguish anything about it. And because Jesus said, "Thou shalt not look upon His face," I merely glanced that way.

Then--I looked at Jesus. This was the second time that night I had seen Jesus. But really for the first time I looked into His face.

After the vision someone asked me, "What is the most outstanding characteristic about the Lord Jesus?"

Immediately I said, "His eyes."

"What do they look like?" they asked.

And I coined this phrase which I've never been able to improve upon in all these years: "His eyes look like wells of living love."

I just can't express it any other way. There was such a look of love in His eyes it seemed to me you could look into them and see a half mile deep.

I fell at His feet in a heap. And noticed His feet were bare. I laid my hands on the top part of His feet, and laid my forehead on the backs of my hands. "Oh, dear Lord," I said with tears, "no one as unworthy as I am, is worthy to look upon Thy face."

And Jesus said, "Stand upright on thy feet." I stood up trembling.

He pointed His finger to me and said, "You are worthy to look upon my face for I have bought you and cleansed you from all sin by my own blood."

Then Jesus began to talk to me. He said some things which astonished me--and upended my theology. He said, "I called you before you were born. I separated you from your mother's womb. Satan tried to destroy your life before you were born and many times since. But my angels have watched over you and cared for you to this present hour."

Then He talked to me about my ministry. How that when I left my last pastorate I entered then into the first phase of my ministry. He talked to me about how I was unfaithful in that phase. He showed me how I was and proved it to me. Then He talked to me about when I had entered the second phase of my ministry.

"And now," He said, "I am appearing to you and speaking to you and you will at this time enter into the third phase of your ministry."

"Stretch forth your hands," He said. As I held outstretched hands to Him He took the finger of His right hand and placed it in the palm of my right hand, and then my left. The moment He did, the palm of each hand began to burn like it had a coal of fire in it; in a spot about the size of a half-dollar.

"Kneel down before me," He said.

When I did He laid His right hand on my head and said, "I have called you and anointed you and have given you a special anointing to minister to the sick."

(Now my friends, Christ Himself did not minister as the Son of God, but as a prophet of God anointed by the Holy Ghost. That anointing was tangible. It flowed out of Him into the sick. Jesus pointed that out to me in this vision. That anointing is what flowed out of Him into the woman who touched His clothes. The King James version calls it "virtue." (Mark 5:30.) But the Greek New Testament says, "power went out of him." Power went out of Him.

Peter said in Acts 10:38, "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing

all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."

Notice it says: He was anointed with the Holy Ghost AND with power. Just because you're filled with the Holy Ghost or even anointed by the Holy Ghost to preach is no sign you're anointed with this power. The Word of God says it was that "power" which went out of Him.)

Jesus said to me, "When you lay hands on the sick, lay one hand on one side of the body, and one hand on the other side. If that fire, or anointing, in your hand jumps from hand to hand, there is an evil spirit or demon in the body causing the trouble. Call the demon out. In my name the demon or demons will have to go. If the fire or anointing (He called it both--fire and anointing. It felt like fire. Fire has always been a type of the Holy Ghost.) does not jump from hand to hand, then it is a case of healing only."

(The Bible does differentiate between casting out devils and healing the sick.)

"Then," He said, "lay your hands upon them and pray. If they will believe it and accept it, then the anointing will flow from your hands into their bodies and will drive out their sickness and their disease."

(This is not the only way of receiving healing--but it is one way. And it is a Bible way.)

Then Jesus explained to me that the reason He was able to heal only a few in His home town of Nazareth--and then only those with minor ailments--was because they wouldn't believe He had the anointing. (Mark 6:5.) Read the 4th chapter of Luke. He told them He was anointed but they wouldn't believe it.

Jesus said to me in the vision, "You go tell the people exactly what I told you. If they will believe it (that is, believe I have the anointing), and they will accept it (you can't give anybody anything they won't accept--material or spiritual), then the anointing will flow from your hands into their bodies and will drive out their sickness and their disease."

Then He told me, "I want you to lay your hands also on believers to receive the Holy Ghost." And He gave me scripture--the 8th chapter of Acts.

ACTS 8:14-15, 17-20

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...

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.

Jesus pointed out to me first that Simon tried to buy the ability to lay hands on people for them to receive the Holy Ghost--and secondly, that Peter said it was a gift. Peter said he and John were "gifted" by the Holy Ghost to lay hands on folks. Some are "gifted" and some are not.

(Keep in mind you can still lay hands on people in faith as a point of contact to release faith, whether you're gifted along this line or not.)

Jesus said to me boldly and plainly, "I have given you that 'gift' of laying on of hands to receive the Holy Ghost." Peter called it a gift in Acts 8:20.

Jesus said to me, "I have given you a ministry of laying on of hands. You are going to have to give an account to me..."

Then there swelled up within my heart a love such as I have never known for those who criticize this type of ministry, and I said, "Lord, I will pray for them, for they don't know or they would not say the things they do. I myself have said similar things, never realizing as of course they do not. Forgive them, Lord."

"Go thy way, Son. Fulfill thy ministry and be thou faithful, for the time is short."

As I walked away from the throne of God, Jesus told me to give all the praise, honor, and glory to Him for all that is done in His name; also, to be careful about money. Many of His servants whom He has anointed for this type of ministry have become money-minded and have lost the anointing and ministry that He gave them. There are many who would pay a great deal to be well. There are parents with children whose bodies are crippled and twisted. They would give thousands of dollars for their children's healing. Many of these shall be delivered as hands are laid upon them. But I must not accept a charge for my ministry, only offerings as I have been doing. I must be faithful for the time is short, He advised.

I tell this because He told me to do so. He told me to tell about this healing ministry, and the anointing.

