

God's Power Through the Laying on of Hands

Have you ever wondered why some Christians seem to experience more of God's power than others? It's not just about praying harder or having more faith - it's about understanding how to access and release the supernatural power that God has already given to believers.

What is the purpose of laying on hands in Christianity?

The laying on of hands isn't just a religious formality - it's a powerful conduit for the transmission of God's power. Throughout scripture, we see this practice used to impart healing, blessing, and spiritual gifts.

When Jesus ministered, He frequently laid hands on people to heal them. In Mark 6:5, even in His hometown where unbelief was high, "He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them." This wasn't just symbolic - it was the actual method through which power was transferred.

How does the Holy Spirit work through physical touch?

Jesus described the Holy Spirit as "rivers of living water" that would flow from within believers (John 7:37-39). This isn't just poetic language - it's a spiritual reality. The Holy Spirit doesn't just reside in us passively; He wants to flow through us like a fountain, springing up and overflowing to impact others.

When we lay hands on someone, we're creating a physical connection that allows this spiritual power to flow. It's like completing an electrical circuit - the power is always there, but it needs a connection to flow properly.

Can any believer lay hands on others for healing?

Absolutely! This isn't reserved for apostles, pastors, or "special" Christians. Jesus was clear in Mark 16:17-18: "These signs will follow those who believe... they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Many Christians today don't realize they have this authority and power. We've been conditioned to say "pray for me" rather than "lay hands on me." But understanding the power of physical connection can transform our approach to ministry.

What happens when hands are laid on someone?

When hands are laid on someone in faith, several things can happen:

- Healing can be imparted (Mark 8:22-25)
- The Holy Spirit can be received (Acts 8:17, Acts 19:6)
- Spiritual gifts can be activated (2 Timothy 1:6)
- Blessing and authority can be transferred (Deuteronomy 34:9)

In each case, there's an actual transfer of spiritual power - not just a symbolic gesture. This is why Habakkuk 3:4 describes God's power as being hidden in His hands, with "rays streaming" from them.

Why doesn't laying on hands always seem to work?

For power to flow effectively, both the giver and receiver need to be properly positioned. The person laying hands needs to be operating in faith, and the recipient needs to be receptive.

Jesus couldn't do many mighty works in His hometown because of their unbelief (Mark 6:5-6). They dishonored Him, and this dishonor was directly connected to their inability to receive. As the scripture says, "a prophet is not without honor except in his own country."

How can I grow in this spiritual practice?

To grow in the ministry of laying on hands:

- Understand that you have real spiritual power as a believer
- Recognize your hands as conduits for God's power
- Stir up the gift by talking about it and practicing it
- Approach the practice with honor and expectation
- Be willing to "turn on the switch of faith" when you lay hands on someone

Remember that this isn't about you - it's about allowing God's power to flow through you to meet someone else's need.

Life Application

This week, I challenge you to step out in faith and practice the laying on of hands. Start small if you need to - perhaps with family members or close friends who have minor ailments. As you do:

- Expect something to happen when you lay hands on someone
- Pay attention to any sensations you might feel (many describe feeling heat or energy flowing)
- Follow up with the person to see what results they experienced
- Keep a journal of your experiences to build your faith

Ask yourself: Am I living as a conduit of God's power, or am I just going through religious motions? Have I been limiting what God can do through me by not understanding the power He's placed in my hands?

Remember, we don't just preach the gospel with words - we demonstrate it with power. This is what sets Christianity apart from other religions. They can all talk about their beliefs, but only through Christ can we actually demonstrate supernatural power that transforms lives.

Quotes

1. "The laying on of hands represents a powerful channel for the transmission of God's supernatural power—not merely a symbolic religious gesture."
2. "The Holy Spirit works through physical touch like completing an electrical circuit—the power is always present, but it requires a connection to flow properly."
3. "People have to cooperate with the power of God for things to happen."

4. "People treat God like He's this big mystery that nobody can understand. But the Holy Spirit, according to Romans 8, is a law—the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus. He's a law you can tap into and use in your life."
5. "A lot of Christians act like cavemen—they don't believe we can understand God's power any more than a prehistoric man understood electricity."
6. "God has given you and me more authority and more control over His Spirit than we realize. That's right—He gave it to us, and He expects us to use what He's given us. He wants us to use the Holy Spirit."
7. "Somebody says, 'I want to be used by God.' Well, first—use God. Learn to use God now. Not use, like take and leave Him—but in the same way you say, 'Lord, use me,' He's saying, 'Use Me.' I've given you all My power—use Me."
8. "When we lay hands, it releases power—power so strong that sickness and disease are literally annihilated."
9. "Why doesn't it happen for everybody? Stop worrying about everybody and think about you. Not everyone is a good recipient of that power. It's not just about releasing it—it's about receiving it. There are two sides: someone has to release it, and someone has to receive it."
10. "Understand the power that flows through the conduit of your hands."
11. "We've got to stir up the gifts on the inside of us. There's an anointing within us, an anointing upon our life, and then there are anointings and gifts we receive from other members of the Body of Christ. When they lay hands on us, things are imparted—things are transferred."
12. "We don't just preach the gospel. We have power to demonstrate—to heal, to deliver. We can do things Mormons can't do, Muslims can't do, Buddhists can't do. They can all tell you something, but we can do something. We have power to act."
13. "If you've got a physical problem, you're going to need to make a physical connection with the power of God. People need to know how to connect."
14. "Rays flow out of our hands to impart, to heal, to deliver. Amen. And we're all to be growing in this. People have different supplies of God's power—different things to offer, different rivers currents."
15. "Some things we're just not going to get without the laying on of hands. There are some people you won't really be able to help just by praying for them—you've got to get your hands on them. That's just the way it works."

Verses

1. John 4:14
2. John 7:37
3. Acts 19:1
4. Ephesians 2
5. Deuteronomy 34:9
6. 2 Timothy 1:6
7. Romans 8
8. Mark 16:15-18
9. Mark 6:4-6
10. Mark 8:22-25
11. Mark 7:32-35
12. Mark 5:22
13. Acts 28:8
14. John 14:12
15. Acts 8:16
16. Habakkuk 3:4
17. Acts 4:30

Summary

The laying on of hands is a powerful conduit for transmitting God's supernatural power, not just a religious formality. Jesus frequently used this method to heal people, and He gave all believers the authority to do the same. When hands are laid on someone in faith, healing can be imparted, the Holy Spirit received, spiritual gifts activated, and blessing transferred. For this power to flow effectively, both the giver must operate in faith and the recipient must be receptive. Every Christian can access this power by understanding they are conduits for God's power and approaching the practice with honor and expectation.