

I. TWO FUNCTIONS OF THE LAYING ON HANDS AND HEALING

A. Scriptures:

1. Jesus laid hands on the sick.

a. The leper:

Mark 1: 40

NKJV “Now a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, ‘If You are willing, You can make me clean.’ Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out *His* hand and touched him, and said to him, ‘I am willing; be cleansed.’ As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed.”

CEV “A man with leprosy came to Jesus and knelt down. He begged, ‘You have the power to make me well, if only you wanted to.’ Jesus felt sorry for the man. **So he put his hand on him** and said, ‘**I want to!** Now you are well.’ At once the man's leprosy disappeared, and he was well.”

b. The woman bowed over for 18 years:

Luke 13:11-13

CEV “...and a woman was there who had been crippled by an evil spirit for 18 years. She was completely bent over and could not straighten up. When Jesus saw the woman, he called her over and said, ‘You are now well.’ He placed his hands on her, and at once she stood up straight and praised God.”

c. At times, Jesus laid His hands on everyone who needed healing:

Luke 4:40-41

NKJV “When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; **and He laid His hands on every one of them** and healed them. And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of God!’”

d. The blind man:

Mark 8:22-25

NKJV “Then He came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him. So 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 on him, He asked him if he saw anything. And he looked up and said, 'I see men like trees, walking.' Then He put *His* hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly."

PASTOR'S NOTE: *Here are four witnesses in the scripture that Jesus used the method of laying on hands for people to receive their healing. The laying on of hands must be important to Him!*

2. Jesus spoke of laying hands on the sick in the great commission.

- **Mark 16:17-18**

KJV "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

3. Jesus' command to the early church leaders who would establish His church at His departure included laying hands on the sick. Did they do it? YES, they did.

a. Paul was healed by the laying on of Ananias' hands:

Acts 9:17-18

NKJV "And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' Immediately there fell from his eyes *something* like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized."

b. Paul heals a man on the Island of Malta:

Acts 28:8

CEV "His father was in bed, sick with fever and stomach trouble, and Paul went to visit him. Paul healed the man by praying and placing his hands on him."

4. The New Testament Church included the laying on of hands as part of their basic doctrine.

- a. **Hebrews 6:1-2**

NKJV “Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary *principles* of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of **laying on of hands**, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.”

B. Faith and the Laying on of Hands

1. The laying on of hands isn’t adequate in and of itself. Faith is necessary.

Mark 6:5-6

NKJV “Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed *them*. And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.”

PASTOR’S NOTE: *If simply laying hands on the people would have worked, certainly in His compassion Jesus would have laid hands on everyone present in this passage (as He did in other places). However, UNBELIEF negatively affected His healing abilities, even the laying on of hands. Conversely, FAITH will enable the laying on of hands. WHENEVER WE HAVE HANDS LAID ON US, WE SHOULD EXERCISE OUR FAITH!*

2. In contrast, see **Mark 6: 53-56**. Here the people touched Him. They begged Him. They BELIEVED something WOULD occur.

C. Things to Consider When Having Hands Laid on You

1. Come forward with faith in your heart.
2. The laying on of hands is the point where one of two things should occur:
 - a. It is the place where you receive an instantaneous miracle of healing.
 - b. It is the place where your faith is released for progressive healing.
 - Regardless of which one happens, you should leave the prayer line believing that something occurred when hands were laid on you. Leave with that confession in your mouth!
3. Begin to put action with your faith!