



ROCK CITY CHURCH

THURSDAY TEACHING · PREPARING FOR THE 43RD ANNUAL CONVENTION

Prophetic Presbytery & the Laying on of Hands

Pastor Jim Kilmartin

As we prepare for Sunday night, we want to understand what we are doing and why. God calls and equips His people through the ministry of His body — and every prophetic word is weighed by Scripture and stewarded through faithful obedience.

PRIMARY PASSAGES Heb. 6:1–3 · 1 Tim. 4:12–16 · 2 Tim. 1:6–7 · 1 Tim. 1:18–19

A FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH

Hebrews 6:1–3 names the laying on of hands among the foundational teachings — alongside repentance, faith, baptisms, resurrection, and eternal judgment.

The call to “go on to maturity” means building on a sound foundation. Spiritual experiences should produce mature disciples who know Christ and obey Him.

TONIGHT’S OUTLINE

1. The biblical pattern of laying on hands
2. Timothy and the ministry of the presbytery
3. Empowered to serve within the body
4. Receive prophecy with faith and discernment
5. Prepare for Sunday and steward the word
6. Congregational response

DEFINING THE PRACTICE

The laying on of hands is a biblical action accompanying prayer through which people are blessed, identified, healed, commissioned, or empowered by God.

It is not magic. The power belongs to God — the hands are a visible point of faith, agreement, and participation in His work.



01 The Biblical Pattern of Laying on Hands

Read Numbers 27:18–23 and Deuteronomy 34:9

BLESSING

Genesis 48:14–20 • Mark 10:13–16

Jacob blesses his grandsons; Jesus lays His hands on the children and blesses them.

RECOGNITION & EMPOWERMENT

Numbers 27:18–23 • Deuteronomy 34:9

Joshua already had the Spirit, yet received wisdom for his new assignment.

HEALING & THE HOLY SPIRIT

Luke 4:40 • Acts 28:8 • Acts 8:14–17 • 19:1–6

God heals through prayer and touch; believers receive the Holy Spirit.

APPOINTMENT & SENDING

Acts 6:3–6 • Acts 13:1–4

Servants are set apart; Barnabas and Saul are sent after fasting and prayer.

In Acts 10:44–48 the Spirit falls with no hands laid on anyone. **God works through this practice and beyond it.**

God initiates the calling. The church listens, recognizes, prays, and sends.

02 Timothy & the Ministry of the Presbytery

Read 1 Timothy 4:12–16 and 2 Timothy 1:6–7

In 1 Timothy 4:14 the KJV says *presbytery*; the NKJV says *eldership*. A presbyter is an elder, and a presbytery is a council of elders. At Rock City, **prophetic presbytery** is a gathering of recognized, mature spiritual leaders who minister together through prayer, prophecy, and the laying on of hands, under the oversight of the local church.

FOUR THINGS TO NOTICE IN TIMOTHY

1. The gift comes from God. Ministers are servants through whom He works (2 Tim. 1:6).

2. Prophecy accompanies it. The gift came “by prophecy” with the elders’ hands (1 Tim. 4:14).

3. It is relational and accountable. Timothy lived under instruction and oversight.

4. It must be cultivated. Study, model godliness, exercise the gift, persevere.

Receiving prophetic ministry does not automatically appoint anyone to church office. Leadership also requires biblical qualifications, proven character, preparation, and the church’s discernment.



03 Empowered to Serve Within the Body

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4–11 and Ephesians 4:11–16

GIFTS SERVE THE COMMON GOOD

1 Cor. 12:7, 11 — The Spirit gives gifts as He wills, for the benefit of the body.

Eph. 4:11–16 — Christ equips the saints for the work of ministry. Every part contributes.

1 Pet. 4:10–11 — Steward what you received by serving others, for God's glory.

WHAT WE MEAN BY IMPARTATION

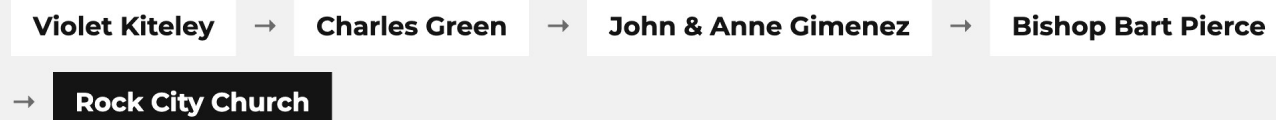
God graciously gives, strengthens, or stirs spiritual enablement as His people minister. **God remains the giver** — no minister holds a supply of power to dispense at will.

We ask in faith and trust Him with the outcome. Scripture does not promise identical experiences for everyone.

OUR HERITAGE

From Pastor Jim's thesis research

The 1948 Latter Rain revival at North Battleford, Saskatchewan, renewed emphasis on prophecy, the laying on of hands, and the corporate recognition of ministry — practices already in Scripture. That heritage reached Rock City Church through relationships:



The research also names three necessary correctives:

Prophetic authority
needs accountability.

Impartation stays
dependent on God.

Receiving ministry
gives no superior
standing in Christ.

*We honor what God has done among those who came before us
by faithfully serving the people He has placed around us now.*

BE THE CHURCH

Know God

Know yourself

Know your people

Know your
assignments

Gifts become fruitful as we walk with God and serve within His body. *What God gives us on Sunday must be cultivated in the life we live on Monday.*



04 Receive Prophecy with Faith & Discernment

Read 1 Corinthians 14:3, 29 and 1 Thessalonians 5:19–22

Prophecy builds people up (1 Cor. 14:3), and love governs every gift. God can also bring fresh direction (Acts 13), yet every word deserves careful weighing.

Edification

to strengthen

Exhortation

to encourage and urge on

Comfort

to console and reassure

OPENNESS AND TESTING BELONG TOGETHER

1 Thess. 5:19–22

Don't despise prophecy. Test all things; keep what is good.

1 Cor. 14:29

Others weigh what is spoken, whoever speaks it.

1 Cor. 14:32–33, 40

Self-control, peace, and order — never coercion.

QUESTIONS FOR WEIGHING A WORD

- ☐ Does it agree with Scripture and the gospel? No revelation can authorize what God forbids or overturn His written Word.
- ☐ Does it build up and lead toward love, holiness, humility, and service? Flattery, fear, or dependence on one minister need careful examination.
- ☐ How does it fit God's work in my life and the discernment of mature leaders who know me? Feelings alone cannot settle it.
- ☐ What is clear, what is uncertain, and what needs time? Separate the actual words from assumptions about meaning and timing.

MAJOR DECISIONS

Bring a word about marriage, work, relocation, finances, or ministry into prayer and pastoral counsel before acting on it.

We can listen with an open heart and examine a word carefully. We do not have to manufacture certainty.



05 Prepare, Receive & Steward

Read 1 Timothy 1:18–19

BEFORE

Pray and make room to listen. Ask the Lord to search your heart. Address known sin and seek reconciliation where needed.

Join the church in prayer and fasting. These express dependence on God; they do not purchase a word or outcome. Individually fast 2-3 day ahead of time.

Bring your Bible and a way to take notes. Release demands for a particular title, prediction, or experience.

DURING

Participate as the body. Worship, pray for those receiving ministry, and follow the direction of church leaders.

Receive prayer honestly. No need to imitate anyone. God's work isn't measured by falling, tears, or trembling.

If you receive a word, listen closely. Keep a recording where provided, or write the words down promptly.

If you aren't called forward, keep receiving. It is not a measure of God's love, your value, or your place.

AFTER

Record & review. Keep the wording, scriptures, date, and context.

Respond faithfully. Where it's sound and clear, take an appropriate step.

Weigh it in community with Scripture and mature pastoral leadership.

Review over time. Stay teachable about meaning and timing.

KNOW YOUR BATTLES, KNOW YOUR VICTORY

Paul tied earlier prophecies over Timothy to fighting the good fight with faith and a good conscience (1 Tim. 1:18–19). A sound word strengthens perseverance; it never removes difficulty or excuses disobedience.

Hold fast to Christ, keep a good conscience, and continue the work He has given you. Our victory rests in Him.