

**Agape House of Worship**  
**Midweek Service - Bible Study**

**Elementary Principles of Christ**  
**Principle #4 – Laying on of Hands**

**Date: Wednesday, August 5, 2020**  
**Teacher: Pastor Jide Lawore**

*Hebrews 6:1-3* “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, 2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3 And this we will do if God permits.” **NKJV**

**The Six Elementary Principles of Christ:** This is the core foundation upon which spiritual maturity is built. It is impossible to go higher in our walk with God without the basic foundations listed in Hebrews 6:1 having been established in our lives

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|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Repentance from dead works | 2. Faith toward God   |
| 3. The doctrine of baptisms   | 4. Laying on of hands |
| 5. Resurrection of the dead   | 6. Eternal judgment   |

In principle #3, we learned that about the three different kinds of baptism: John’s baptism, Christian baptism, and baptism in the Holy Spirit. Today, we are going into Principle #4, which is, “Laying on of Hands.”

**Principle #4 – Laying on of Hands:** Laying on of hands is an essential element in the history of God’s people. It has been a way spiritual blessings and God’s covenant has been transmitted throughout generations of God’s people. Laying on of hands uses an important aspect of our natural life which is human contact to achieve a spiritual function. There are two main purposes of laying on of hands in the Bible:

1. To transmit: blessing, authority, wisdom, Holy Spirit, healing, spiritual gifts etc.
2. To commission into ministry (ordination). Genes 48:8–19. To commission is to:
  - recognize and endorse
  - set apart for a task or ministry assignment
  - equip with spiritual authority and gift

**Examples of Laying on of Hands in the Old Testament**

**I. Aron and priest laid hands on sacrificial animals**

- Instruction for burnt and atonement offering. Leviticus 1:4, 1 Leviticus 16:20-22
- Transmission of people’s sins to the animal

**II. Jacob laid hands on the sons of Joseph (Gen. 48:8–19)**

- To release a blessing which determined the course of their lives

**III. Moses laid hands on Joshua: to set apart, endorse and equip. (Num. 27:18–23; Deut. 34:9)**

*Numbers 27:18–23* - Then Moses spoke to the Lord, saying: 16 “Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, 17 who may go out before them and go in before them, who may lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the Lord may not be like sheep which have no shepherd.” 18 And the Lord said to Moses: “Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; 19 set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and inaugurate him in their sight. 20 And you shall give some of your authority to him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient. 21 He shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire before the Lord for him by the judgment of the Urim. At his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, he and all the children of Israel with him—all the congregation.” 22 So Moses did as the Lord commanded him. He took Joshua and set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation. 23 And he laid his hands on him and inaugurated him, just as the Lord commanded by the hand of Moses.

*Deuteronomy 34:9* - Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit[a] of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the Lord had commanded Moses.

- The purpose is to endorse, set apart, and equip Joshua as a successor

## Purposes of Laying on of Hands in the New Testament

### I. To impart healing to the sick

**Mark 16:17–18** - *And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues;.....they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.*”

**Luke 4:40**– *At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them.*

**James 5:14–15** - *Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.*

### II. To receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit

- The Samaritans (Acts 8:14–20) – *Vs 17 “Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*
- Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:15-18) – *Vs 17 “Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”*
- The disciples at Ephesus (Acts 19:1–6) – *Vs 6 “When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.”*

### III. To Impart Spiritual Gifts

- **2 Timothy 1:6** - *For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.*
- **Romans 1:11–12** - *I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong— 12 that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith*

### IV. To Commission for Ministry Assignment: transmit authority, set apart and equip

- Appointment of Deacons (Acts 6:1–7) – “....to transmit authority, set apart, endorse and equip  
**Acts 6:5-6** – *“They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. 6 They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.”*
- Appointment of elders (Acts 14:23; 1 Tim. 5:17–22; Titus 1:5)  
**Acts 14:23** - *Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.*
  - Transmit authority, set apart, endorse, and equip
- Sending out of Apostles (Acts 13:1–4, 14:26–27)  
**Acts 13:1–4** - *Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. 2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” 3 So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.*
  - Transmit authority, set apart, endorse, and equip

### V. Laying on of Hands Must be Done Carefully

**1 Timothy 5: 19-22** - *Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. 20 But those elders who are sinning you are to reprove before everyone, so that the others may take warning. 21 I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism. 22 Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.*