

## Doctrine of the Laying on of Hands

1. The doctrine of laying on of hands is an important teaching in both the Old Testament and the New.
2. The author of Hebrews considers the doctrine of the laying on of hands to be a foundational principle of Christian theology.
  - *Hebrews 6:1 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.*
3. In the Old Testament economy the laying on of hands was associated as an act of worship when giving a sacrifice to the Lord.
  - *Leviticus 3:2 And he shall lay his hand upon the head of his offering, and kill it at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and Aaron's sons the priests shall sprinkle the blood upon the altar round about.*
4. Matthew Henry observes the significance of the act of laying on of hands. "The offerer's putting his hand on the head of the offering was to signify his desire and hope that it might be accepted from him to make atonement for him."
  - *Leviticus 3:8 And he shall lay his hand upon the head of his offering, and kill it before the tabernacle of the congregation: and Aaron's sons shall sprinkle the blood thereof round about upon the altar.*
5. He that laid his hand on the head of a burnt-offering was to confess that he had left undone what he ought to have done and had done that which he ought not to have done, and to pray that, though he deserved to die himself, the death of his sacrifice might be accepted for the expiating of his guilt.
  - *Leviticus 3:13 And he shall lay his hand upon the head of it, and kill it before the tabernacle of the congregation: and the sons of Aaron shall sprinkle the blood thereof upon the altar round about.*
  - *Leviticus 4:4 And he shall bring the bullock unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the Lord; and shall lay his hand upon the bullock's head, and kill the bullock before the Lord.*
  - *Leviticus 4:24 And he shall lay his hand upon the head of the goat, and kill it in the place where they kill the burnt offering before the Lord: it is a sin offering.*

- *Leviticus 4:29 And he shall lay his hand upon the head of the sin offering, and slay the sin offering in the place of the burnt offering.*
  - *Leviticus 4:33 And he shall lay his hand upon the head of the sin offering, and slay it for a sin offering in the place where they kill the burnt offering*
6. By the laying on of hands a spiritual transference took place. The sins of the worshipper were transferred to the animal being sacrificed and atonement was made.
7. Job longed for a Daysman, a Mediator, to come between himself and God that the Mediator might “lay his hand upon us both” with a view towards reconciliation.
- *Job 9:33 Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, that might lay his hand upon us both.*

***Special Note.***

The longing of Job’s heart was fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ who is the Daysman that stands between man and God.

- *1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;*
  - *Hebrews 8:6 But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.*
  - *Hebrews 9:15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.*
  - *Hebrews 12:24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.*
8. The laying on of hands also speaks of authority. Spiritual power or authority is transferred from one person to another.
- By the laying on of hands the Holy Spirit was received. *Acts 8:17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.*
- Acts 19:6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.*
- By the laying on of hands men were ordained to the ministry. *2 Timothy 1:6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.*

- By the laying on of hands spiritual gifts are imparted. *1 Timothy 4:14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.*
9. Because of the seriousness of the symbolic ceremony, the church should be very cautious in ordaining men for ministry.
- *1 Timothy 5:22 Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.*
10. The laying on of hands should be accompanied by prayer and fasting.
- *Acts 13:3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.*