

### 03-Apostles and the Laying on of Hands

In the last couple of posts, we discussed what apostolic grace was and how it could be applied to believers. We saw that apostles and prophets see things that others have a hard time seeing. Apostles take what they see by the Spirit of God and create blueprints so others can see what they see. Prophets and apostles make known to the saints the picture of what Jesus is doing in the earth, as well as the understanding of why, how, where, etc. There is a difference between seeing and understanding.

We discussed what God was saying about touching His anointed and how those words should no longer be used against the saints or to control the saints. We, the Ekklesia, are His anointed. All of us, as believers, are anointed. God is telling the world that His people are going to inherit what He has given them and nothing is going to stop them.

Apostles have an anointing given to them by Jesus. They must stir up that anointing, so they can impart a portion of that anointing to the people of God through the laying on of hands. Paul longed to visit the Ekklesia who lived in Rome so that he could impart grace to them. That apostolic grace was so they could be established or become firm in what they believed. Paul also told Timothy that the grace that was in him was there because Paul had laid hands on him.

The laying on of hands is important. The writer of Hebrews declared it to be one of the fundamental foundational doctrines. In fact, he declared that we cannot go on to maturity without a strong foundation of laying on of hands, among other foundational truths. This takes more than training. It takes more than head knowledge. It takes experiences with the Holy Spirit and knowing the Father's heart.

***Therefore, leaving the elementary principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. Hebrews 6:1,2 (MEV)***

We are quick to lay hands on people in our gathering places, but in many of these situations, it is empty hands placed on empty heads. This ought not to be. We need to understand that the laying on of hands is not, as some teach, merely symbolic or a ritual to be performed to show we believe in Jesus. There should actually be a transferring of some form of grace when we lay hands on people.



There are many examples in the Bible of Jesus and apostles, as well as saints, laying hands on people for healing and people were healed. There was a grace imparted, transferred to the receiver that caused healing. We can all lay hands on people and expect a grace to be given through us. The embers of our anointing must be stirred into a flame of fire by the Spirit of the Living God.

Paul cautioned Timothy that the grace that was imparted to him through the laying on of hands could be neglected by Timothy. He reminded Timothy that he needed to keep stirring up the grace, the anointing that was in him. He was to keep stirring up the embers so they produced a fire in his spirit. I believe there are a good many believers who have neglected the grace and anointing that is in them. They operate daily life with barely a few embers of fire in their spirit. They have very little fire in their spirits to produce results in their own lives. As a consequence, they have little to give. This ought not to be.

If the Ekklesia is to mature enough to advance the Kingdom of God in the earth, it needs to understand the basic principles and have them operating in their lives, including laying on of hands. Advancing the Kingdom means they have more than enough, so it not only operates in our own lives but it spills over to others.

Moses and Joshua are Old Testament prototypes of apostles. Moses had seen the promised land from a distance. He was not going to enter it. As he was preparing to be taken from the earth, he requested that God provide a great leader who would lead them OUT of the desert and INTO their destiny, their inheritance (Numbers 27). That is what true apostles do. They help us find our way out of the desert and into our inheritance.

***And the Lord said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him; And set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight. And thou shalt put some of thine honour upon him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient.***

***Numbers 27:18-20 (KJV)***

God told Moses to lay hands upon Joshua and when he did there would be something transferred and it would be for a certain purpose. The word translated "honor" from the Hebrew means "glory, majesty, honor, excellence". The word "obedient" means "to listen, to hear, to understand". When we listen, it should be with an intent to thoroughly understand.

Here are these same verses from the Modern English version of the Bible.

***The Lord said to Moses, "Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him, and cause him to stand before Eleazar the priest and before all the assembly, and command in their sight. You will put some of your majesty on him, in order that all the assembly of the children of Israel will listen.***

***Numbers 27:18-20 (MEV)***



True apostles must stir up the grace or anointing that is in them, so when they lay hands on people a portion of that apostolic anointing can be imparted to those on which they lay their hand. I said in an earlier post, a good deal of the apostolic anointing is the ability to cause the fog over people's eyes to be lifted so they can see truth clearly.

Not only must we see clearly, we must hear and understand what we can now see, by the grace of God. That is key for the day we live in as we enter into our destiny, our inheritance. I believe it one of the major problems with the prophetic today. Many prophets are seeing, but they are not understanding. Therefore, they speak out of their souls, instead of their spirits, where the Spirit of God speaks.

True apostles see the big picture of what God is doing in the earth, or in certain arenas of the earth. Their desire is for you also to see and understand what God wants to do, and for you to find your place in making it happen. Your place may be in your business, your school, your government, your family, among dozens of other options. It doesn't matter. In order to accomplish what God has placed in your heart it requires an anointing from God on your life. It requires the Holy Spirit. The laying on of hands is one way to stir up the embers of fire in your spirit and allow the Holy Spirit to empower you.

***Now Joshua, the son of Nun, was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. And the children of Israel listened to him and did as the Lord commanded Moses.***  
***Deuteronomy 34:9 (MEV)***

Joshua operated from a spirit of wisdom after Moses laid hands on him. That is a great thing. Surely, we need the spirit of wisdom in all aspects of our everyday life! When we know there is a leader who hears from God and we understand what God is saying through them, we are willing to follow because we know in doing so, you are following Jesus.

Saints, who love their God, will not follow anyone but Jesus. If they see Jesus in you, they will follow. Leaders do not coerce or control the saints of God. Leaders hear God and move at His command. If no one follows they will still continue to hear God and do as He desires of them. True leaders want you to follow Jesus always.

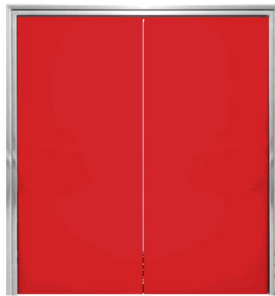
We will not mature into the true Ekklesia, the one new man, until we understand the basic principles of the foundation of doctrine laid out by Jesus. Laying on of hands and transference of grace is one of those truths we need to have established in our

lives. This is not a full expose concerning the laying on of hands, but serves only as a reminder as well as a call to understand it, in light of apostolic grace.

In many cases, particularly in the Old Testament, blessings were transferred from one generation to another through the laying on of hands. Sometimes the laying on of hands also has a symbolic component to it as in the case of one event in Jacob's life as he was about to die. The story is found in Genesis chapter 48.

Joseph had been sold into slavery in Egypt and finally his father Jacob got to see him again. Joseph was by then a great leader in Egypt. Jacob was ill while the whole family was in Egypt. Joseph took his two sons with him to visit his father. Jacob wanted to lay hands on the boys and impart a blessing. In those days, the first born was given the right of the birthright. We won't go into the details of the birthright in this article, but it is a fascinating subject to study.

Joseph placed his sons so that Jacob's right hand would be placed on Manasseh, the older child, and his left hand would be placed on Ephraim, the younger child. However, Jacob crossed his arms so his right hand would be placed on the younger child, Ephraim, to receive the birthright. Joseph objected to what his father was doing, but Jacob knew what he was doing and insisted.



The name Manasseh means "one who forgets" and Ephraim means "double land" or "doubly fruitful". Manasseh represents the first century Ekklesia who forgot their purpose and Ephraim represents the last day Ekklesia that will inherit her birthright. We must shed all fears and all hesitation and determine that we will not be denied our birthright, that which the Lord has declared for us. We will go through so that we can enter into the promised land. The first shall be last, and the last shall be first. The glory of the latter house will be greater than the first.

Here is another example of a symbolic component in the laying on of hands, this time from Paul's life. Paul was to become one of the greatest apostles ever to live. He would understand a mystery that had been hidden since the beginning of time. The mystery was that not only Jews would be God's peculiar people in the earth, but He would open up that opportunity to Gentiles as well. Then, the most devout Jew would take the message of the gospel of the Kingdom to the Gentiles.

In order for this to happen, Saul had to have an encounter with Jesus that would change him into Paul. The encounter with Jesus changed Saul's life but he was left blind. For three days he was blind. God spoke to a man named Ananias and told him to go to Paul and lay hand on him. Paul would then be able to see and would receive

the Holy Spirit. It was on the third day Paul could see and rose up in the power of the Holy Spirit to become a great apostle.

This is a prophetic event. Ananias probably didn't understand the entire significance of his obedience to God. I believe God was showing all who would continue to read about this event in the Bible, that there would be a time when sin and the performing of religious activities to attempt to please God would cause a blindness for two days or 2000 years.

After that, there would be an apostolic anointing that would come on the third day that would cause the scales to come off the eyes. There would be an impartation of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands that would cause others to see and follow the Savior wherever He might lead to accomplish the original mandate given to the first Adam and reinstated by the last Adam.



***Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground." Genesis 1:28 (NLT)***

Jesus did not teach us to pray for the fun of it. In the prayer that we now call the Lord's prayer, Jesus taught us to pray that the will of the Father would be done on earth as it is in heaven. We were to pray for His Kingdom to come to earth. How would we know when His Kingdom had come to earth? When His will was being accomplished on the earth, just like it is in heaven. In other words, when we make earth look like heaven. Welcome to the third day! Stir up the grace in you and let us go on to maturity!

Still more on the apostolic anointing to come in the next post.

