

“LAYING ON OF HANDS”

The “laying on of hands” was a custom practiced in Bible times. In the days *before and during the Law of Moses*, the practice was done:

- When bestowing a blessing or gift (Gen 58)
- When offering a sacrifice (Lev 3, 4, 8, 16; Num 8)
- When appointing a servant (Num 27; Deut 34; Acts 6)
- When rendering a verdict (Lev 24)

...the practice was done by *Jesus*:

- When praying for children (Matt 19)
- When miraculously healing the sick (Matt 9; Mk 6; Lk 4; Lk 13)

In the early church, the practice was done by the *apostles*:

- When miraculously healing the sick (Mk 16; Acts 28)
- When imparting miraculous spiritual gifts (Acts 8; 19; 2 Tim 1)

...and by the *apostles, elders and evangelists*:

- When appointing deacons, elders and evangelists (Acts 6; 13; 1 Tim 4; 5)
- When miraculously healing the sick (Acts 8; 9; implied in Jas 5)

Does the “laying on of hands” serve a purpose today? In several respects there is no longer a purpose for the practice.

- Animal sacrifices are obsolete (Heb 10)
- Miraculous spiritual gifts have ceased (1 Cor 13:10; Jas 2:25)
- The gospel was confirmed by the miracles God did through those who heard His Son Jesus Christ (Mk 16; Heb 2; 1 Cor 13)

The “laying on of hands” is an “*elementary*” principle (cf. Heb 6:2), as the points above will indicate. {Visit www.greenmeadowchurchofchrist.com for audio lessons from our recent gospel meeting.}

Green Meadow church of Christ
3438 Green Meadow Dr.
San Angelo, TX 76904; (325) 224-2848
Sunday: 9:30; 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.