

# The Word of Faith

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## *Laying On Of Hands*

Hebrews 6:1,2, "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go unto perfection not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment."

I am going to speak to you on the subject of laying on of hands. Some time ago someone said to me, "Twenty-five years ago God spoke to me and He used me in a ministry of laying on of hands." (They belonged to a Pentecostal church organization.) They went on to say, "But you know, I have sort of backed off from it, even though God was using me. I didn't want to make a doctrine out of it, or an issue out of it. Some of the others didn't understand."

I said, "You didn't have to make a doctrine out of it, Jesus did." Those who will not accept Christ's doctrines are in serious straits spiritually. Laying on of hands is one of the half dozen fundamental principles in the doctrine of our Lord Jesus.

They are listed here in Hebrews and the first one is repentance. What would you think if I were to get in the pulpit, or just speaking to someone, and say, "I don't believe in the doctrine of repentance?" You would be ready to withdraw fellowship from me. You ought to.

The second doctrine is faith toward God. The Bible says, "By grace are ye saved through faith: and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." What if I were to make the application, "I don't believe much in faith?" You would say, "You can't be saved. There is something wrong with you." Someone would say, "We'd better watch that fellow."

Then the third one is the doctrine of baptisms. I call your attention to the fact that it is in the plural -- baptisms. That includes first the new birth, for when one is born again he is baptized by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ.

Second, it includes water baptism. He is baptized in water, for water baptism is an outward sign of an inward grace. Third, it includes the baptism in the Holy Ghost, speaking with other tongues. Notice it is in the plural -- doctrine of baptisms.

What if I said, "I don't much believe in the new birth, or water baptism, or the Baptism of the Holy Ghost?" I dare say every one of you would be ready to quit me right now. And I wouldn't much blame you.

Then again, the doctrine of resurrection of the dead. Notice he doesn't say the resurrection. He said, "...and of resurrection of the dead." If he had said

the resurrection, there would just be one resurrection, but there is more than one resurrection. So he said simply, "resurrection of the dead."

This includes the first resurrection, the second resurrection, and all of the resurrections. This includes the fact that we are looking for Christ to come, the dead in Christ shall be raised first, and we which are alive and remain shall be raptured. That is all included here.

What would you say if I said, "Oh, I don't think the dead are ever going to be resurrected. I don't know much about that. I don't much believe in it?" You would be ready to quit me. You would say, "There is something wrong with that fellow. He's not solid. He doesn't believe the fundamental principles of the doctrine of Christ."

No matter what else we believe friends, we must believe the fundamentals. I could fellowship with anybody that believes the fundamentals. If they deny any one of them, I cannot fellowship with them. Here are the fundamental principles of the doctrine of Christ.

Finally, the doctrine of eternal judgment. Notice again, He didn't say the doctrine of the judgment. It is simply the doctrine. In fact, there are about seven judgments spoken of in the New Testament, and all of them

are included in this one doctrine.

How would you feel toward me, and what would you think, if I were to say, "I don't go along with this judgment business. I don't think there is going to be any judgment." You would know there was something wrong with me.

Friends, I want you to notice something else. Right in the center of these fundamental principles of the doctrine of Christ there is one that is called "...and of laying on of hands."

The doctrine of laying on of hands. Yet, I have heard some Full Gospel ministers say, "I don't much go along with that." I would just as soon cuss as say that. I would rather tell a lie. It would be easier to get forgiveness for that. Brother and Sister, that is a serious thing, to deny any fundamental principle of the doctrine of Jesus Christ.

We ought to preach more on this doctrine than what we have. I will be honest with you, I have been a Christian and a minister for twenty-eight years--first denominational and then Full Gospel--and I have never heard anyone in either church preach on this subject. So here is a doctrine that has been greatly neglected among us.

Men and women, the Word of God has a great deal to say about the laying on of hands. It is surprising that some Christians see no significance at all in the scriptural ordinance and doctrine. Others regard it with something like astonishment, and some even with fear.

Why, I don't know, because the laying on of hands is one of the half dozen fundamental doctrines of our Pentecostal faith, and doctrines of the Lord Jesus Christ laid down here in

Hebrews 6:2. Something mighty occurs when men of faith lay hands, in the name of the Lord, upon those who in faith receive the impartation.

I know, of course, that there is an unprofitable laying on of hands. We have two extremes in the church world. It seems like the hardest thing in the world to maintain balance in any realm relative to the scriptures.

We have first of all, the laying on of hands as a mere piece of ritual or formality, and nothing at all happens. In the denominational church world there are churches that have a form or ritual of laying hands upon folk to confirm them into the church.

They are supposed, according to their church creed, to receive the Holy Ghost. But they don't, because they don't speak with other tongues. If they had received the Holy Spirit they would have spoken with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. So their laying on of hands is a mere ritual or formality, and nothing at all happens.

Then right on the other hand, there are extremities when it comes to laying on of hands, even in Full Gospel and Pentecostal circles. But that doesn't do away with the real.

I am not going to be scared out because of formality and ritualism on one hand, and then I am not going to be afraid and scared out of practicing the New Testament because of fanaticism and excess on the other. I am going to practice New Testament methods and produce New Testament results.

I know that folk have had hands laid on them in Pentecostal circles for nearly everything you can mention, and have had

almost everything you can mention supposedly imparted to them, (and a lot of things you couldn't mention or would be ashamed to mention).

Let me say again, it is scriptural to lay hands on people. It is scriptural even to prophesy to them and over them. I have done it many times, and saw people delivered and healed and filled with the Holy Ghost. I have prophesied to them things that would come to pass, and have seen them come to pass. I haven't given anyone any spiritual gifts by laying on of hands, and you haven't either. And no one else has. You can't give spiritual gifts by laying on of hands, but I'll tell you what can happen. The gifts that are already given can be stirred up by the laying on of hands.

There is a realm of prophecy that is certainly scriptural, and a realm of laying on of hands that is certainly Biblical. I am not going to be scared out by excess and fanaticism and the laying of empty hands on empty heads. I am going to lay hands, New Testament style, on believers as the Holy Ghost directs, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and produce New Testament results.

You will find that the Word of God teaches that it's scriptural to lay hands on those who are ordained to the ministry. They laid hands on those men they separated to be deacons, to serve tables. But the laying on of hands for service is broader than that.

It is certainly scriptural to lay hands on the sick for healing. The Lord Jesus Himself really employed the use of laying on of hands in healing. The Bible says in Mark 6:5, "And he could there do no mighty work save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them."

There in His home town of Nazareth the few that were healed by the laying on of Christ's hands. The Bible says, in Matthew 8:15, as Jesus came into Peter's house and saw Peter's mother-in-law sick with a fever, "And he touched her hand, and the fever left her." Evidently He laid His hand upon her hand.

If you want to get laying on of hands to work for you, you have to believe in it. If you think it doesn't amount to anything, then it won't amount to anything and you won't receive anything.

I believe it is thoroughly unscriptural and disrespectful to lay hands on people up and down the aisle after the service

is over. You wouldn't dismiss the service and then have a water baptismal service, would you? Laying on of hands is an ordinance and a doctrine, just as much as water baptism is. It should be practiced reverently.

I believe that is the reason our laying on of hands, in Pentecostal circles, hasn't gotten any more results than it has. We don't have the right respect for the Bible ordinance and doctrine of laying on of hands.

You don't just practice promiscuously the laying on of hands.

Sure you can lay hands on people in their homes, but it should be entered into reverently, humbly, and with faith. You

would certainly have the right in the night time, husbands, if your wife were sick, to lay your hands upon her in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Or if your children are sick, both husband and wife lay hands on them in the name of the Lord and pray, and expect them to be healed. That is certainly scriptural.

Jesus said, "These signs shall follow them that believe...they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." Then any believer--minister, pastor, evangelist, preacher, prophet, teacher, Sunday School teacher or any believer--could lay hands on a fellow believer as a contact of faith to release their faith and expect that person to be healed.

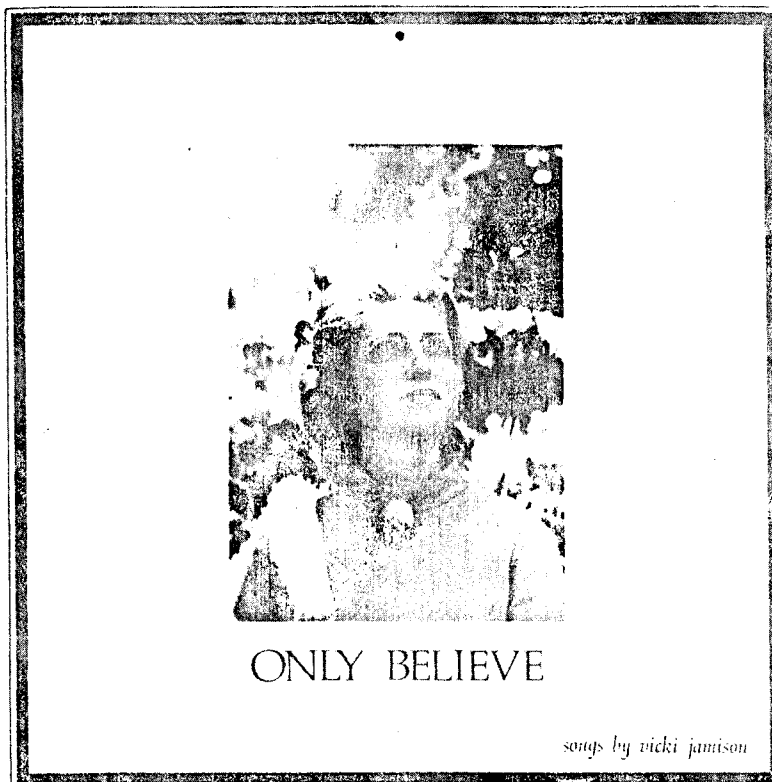
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### THE WORD OF FAITH

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CITY-STATE	STATION	DIAL	TIME
Jacksonville, Arkansas	KGMR	1500	11:45 AM
Columbus, Georgia	WHYD-FM	107.3	11:00 AM
Peoria, Illinois	WPEO	1020	12:45 PM
Des Moines, Iowa	KDMI-FM	97.3	10:15 AM
Louisville, Kentucky	WKLO-FM	99.7	10:00 AM
Detroit, Michigan	WBFG-FM	98.7	9:15 AM
St. Paul (Minneapolis), Minn.	KNOF-FM	95.3	12:00 Noon
St. Louis, Missouri	KXEN	1010	9:15 AM
Albany (Cherry Valley), NY	WJIV-FM	101.9	9:08 AM
Buffalo (Weathersfield), NY	WBIV-FM	107.7	9:08 AM
Ithaca, New York	WEIV-FM	103.7	9:08 AM
Rochester (Bristol), NY	WMIV-FM	95.1	9:08 AM
Syracuse (DeRuyter), NY	WOIV-FM	105.1	9:08 AM
Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio	WQMS-FM	96.5	8:45 AM
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	KELR	1460	7:30 AM
Tulsa, Oklahoma	KFMJ	1050	10:45 AM
Tulsa, Oklahoma	KFMJ-FM	96.5	10:45 AM
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