

Laying on of Hands and Anointing with Oil

Some reasons in scripture for laying on of hands....

- **Sacrifice** – In the Old Testament before killing an animal sacrifice the offering the sacrifice laid hands on the head of the animal before killing it. This identified the offerer with the sacrifice and signified the transference of sins from the person to the sacrifice. For example in, (Leviticus 4:4 NIV) – “He is to present the bull at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting before the LORD. He is to lay his hand on its head and slaughter it before the LORD.”
- **Testimony** – Witnesses who testified against a blasphemer were to place their hands on his head when he was about to be executed. (Leviticus 24:14 NIV) "Take the blasphemer outside the camp. All those who heard him are to lay their hands on his head, and the entire assembly is to stone him. This seemingly testified that all the guilt was on him and not the community.
- **Ordination** – Both in the Old and New Testament the practice of the laying on of hands signified to the faith community that a person(s) possessed the divine gifts and the calling of leadership to serve in particular ministry.
- These reasons for the “laying on of hands” are not presently associated with the common role of the deacons in our church. But there are two other reasons for which you, as a deacon, lay your hands on an individual.

Laying on of hands to Heal...

- (Luke 4:40 NIV) When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them.
- (Acts 9:17-18 NIV) 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." {18} Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized,
- When you, as a deacon, lay your hands in prayer on those who are sick, you are stating your belief, both in your heart, and as demonstrated in your life, that God is able to heal this person's life and body.

Laying on of hands to Bless...

- (Matthew 19:14-15 NIV) Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." {15} When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.
- (Acts 8:17 NIV) Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.
- (Acts 19:1-7 NIV) While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples {2} and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." {3} So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. {4} Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." {5} On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. {6} When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. {7} There were about twelve men in all.
- When you, as a deacon, lay your hands in prayer on those whom you are blessing, you are literally “speaking of good things for that person” from the Lord.

Anointing with Oil...

- The oil represents two very important spheres in the healing process...
 - Medical Sphere - Oil in biblical times was used as a medicine or at least had medicinal purposes. (Luke 10:30-37)
 - Spiritual Sphere - Also oil represents the Spirit of God (1 Samuel 16:1-13)
- When you, as a deacon, anoint with oil and lay your hands in prayer on those whom you are in need of healing, you are praying for God to intervene in the physical life of that person.

When should you pray for another person in the church?

Whenever you can...

Wherever you can...

With whomever you can...

All for the glory of God!

Challenge: Be spiritually sensitive to your ministry of prayer and do not be afraid to pray!

What holds you back from prayer?

- May not be comfortable praying in public...
- May not be sure what to pray...
- May seem intrusive...
- May seem overly spiritual...
- May be timid or shy...
- May be too busy to listen to the Holy Spirit...
- May not feel adequate spiritually... (pronounced shortcomings or sin)
- Others?

Anointing with Oil: "How do I anoint someone with oil?"

1. Inquire – "How may I pray for you?"
2. Listen to the Request – Will you pray for a healing, blessing or both?
3. Wet Finger with Oil – I use my pointing finger of my right hand
4. Apply the Oil – The word 'anoint' means to rub or smear - "(Name), according to the scripture, I anoint you with oil in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."
5. Offer Prayer – After anointing the believer, pray specifically for the person according to their request. Examples: "May God, the Great Physician, touch and heal...." Or "May God bless...."