

The Laying on of Hands

We have been discussing the “elementary teachings” of Christ and “going on to maturity”. (Heb. 6:1-3). The reason that most have not gone on to maturity is because they have never been taught the elementary doctrines and without them, we cannot go on to maturity as Christians. Today, I would like to introduce the fourth of these elementary doctrines, the “laying on of hands”.

There are several things that are accomplished through the laying on of hands – to confirm things in us, and to release us into the work of God, and at other times for prayer and healing. The basic purposes are to confirm who we are in the Lord and to release us. These two distinct things may occur at the same time. In other words, we may be both confirmed and sent into the work. At other times, we may be acknowledged for who we are in the Kingdom. We are not giving favoritism in selecting with whom we want to be. Jesus, the Head of the church, has sent the Holy Spirit to endow His people with gifts that represent Him. The evidence, that we have been called to be who we are, will be seen in how we function in light of whom God has made us to be.

What must precede our confirmation and release? We must have the evidence that the work of the Holy Spirit is in our life, being manifest in who we are and what we do. The laying on of hands is for confirmation that the gifts are actually in us, that we are who we say we are, in the Lord. Once released, a greater measure of gifting comes upon us and the result is that we will have greater responsibility in our part of the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. We will also experience a time of testing, because the enemy desires to keep us from fulfilling our purpose on earth.

The laying on of hands is of great importance in our individual confirmation and release into who we are what we’re called to do. When the enemy accuses and resists us, we are able to stand in the fact that we’ve been confirmed in the Lord and by the body of Christ. We know who we are and what we do for His glory, fulfilling His will on earth.