

Th122 Foundation Doctrines

Lesson Th122 – 20 Laying on of Hands: To Impart Healing

A certain man bought a new car. He was so excited about his purchase. He drove it from his village to the city, carrying produce that he grew to sell in the market. One day, on the way to the market, he noticed that his car's engine was not running well. It began to sputter and smoke. The man took the car to his friend, whom he thought might be able to fix its problem. The friend looked under the bonnet and tried making adjustments. But the car continued to run poorly. Each week when the man drove to market he would have to find a repair shop to work on his car. No one ever seemed to be able to find the problem and restore it to its original condition.

Finally, the car was running so poorly, that it was obvious that it would not make the long trip back to the village. The man was so frustrated that he decided to take the car to the original maker's repair shop. There the mechanic looked under the hood and found the problem immediately. He reconnected a rubber hose that had come loose. Suddenly the car was running as well as the day the man had purchased it.

Sickness and disease has been part of the human condition since Adam and Eve were forced from the Garden of Eden. Man has sought remedies for his illnesses through witchcraft, herbs, folk wisdom, and doctors. It seems that people will try everything but the most obvious answer. Why not ask the original Creator for help? In today's story, you will learn about how people can be healed through prayer and the laying on of hands.

The apostle Paul had been arrested and thrown into prison for preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul remained in prison for two years, while Felix was governor of Judea. But Felix was replaced by a man named Festus. The Jewish leaders, who had first arrested Paul, saw this as an opportunity to have him executed. They appealed to Festus for a trial. This would create a significant problem for Festus. Paul was not just an inhabitant of the land; he was an actual citizen of Rome. He had specific rights. It became obvious to Paul that he would not receive a fair trial in Judea. He then exercised his rights as a Roman citizen to have his case heard before a court in Rome.

Thus, Governor Festus loaded Paul and his traveling companion, Luke, onto a boat to send him to Rome for his trial. The trip to Rome would not be without incident. Soon a terrible storm came upon their ship. The small ship was battered by the towering waves and ferocious winds for many days. The storm so darkened the sky that they could not tell night from day. On the fourteenth night, the sailors sensed that they were approaching land. Early the next morning they cut the ship's anchor and attempted to sail ashore. But the ship ran aground on a sandbar and everyone had to swim to shore. They gathered around a fire on the beach to warm their wet bodies. Paul picked up a branch to throw it into the fire. But there was a snake coiled there. It struck and latched onto Paul's arm. Paul shook the snake off into the fire. Everyone watched in horror, expecting Paul to drop dead from the snake's venom. But to their amazement, Paul did not die or get ill.

They discovered that they had landed on the island of Malta. There was an estate nearby that belonged to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed them to his home and showed them generous hospitality for three days. His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him. After this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were also cured. This is such a beautiful and simple account of someone being healed through prayer and the laying on of hands.

In his Gospel, Mark wrote down Jesus' final words to his disciples. He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will lay hands on sick people, and they will get well" (Mark 16:15-18). It has been promised to us by Jesus Christ himself that we can pray and lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.

This lesson is **important** because it illustrates that since God created our bodies, we can go to him expecting a miracle of healing. Further, Jesus promised that as we lay hands on sick people, they will get well.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that believers have the authority given by Jesus to pray and lay hands on the sick, so they may be healed.

The following questions will help you **review** the lesson:

1. How can we impart healing to the sick? [Pause 5 seconds]
A. If you said that we can pray and lay hands on them so that they will recover, then you answered correctly.
2. Who promised the disciples that they could lay hands on the sick, who would then recover? [Pause 5 seconds]
A. If you said that Jesus made this promise to his disciples, you are correct.
3. What did Paul do for the suffering father of Publius? [Pause 5 seconds]
A. If you said, "He prayed and then laid hands on him, so he was healed," then you are right.

Your **assignment** for this lesson is to listen to it and watch it as many times as is necessary to learn the story. Then, you are to find someone who is sick and after praying, lay hands on them so that they can recover from their illness.