

Foundations Principles: Laying on of Hands



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Laying on of Hands

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Foundations Principles: Laying on of Hands

1 Introduction

What precisely are we to understand by the phrase, “laying on of hands”? It is an act in which one person places his hands on the body of another, with definite spiritual purpose.

The Biblical practice of laying on of hands is seen at work among the people of God from the book of Genesis. An example is, Jacob stealing the eldest son’s blessing from his brother Esau, by tricking his blind father Isaac to lay hands on him so he could receive Isaac’s blessing (Genesis 27:19–29). Then in the narrative found in Genesis 48:8–20, we read of Jacob blessing the sons of Joseph through the laying on of hands. Joseph understood the authority carried through the laying on of hands, so he was disturbed and upset when Jacob crossed his hands placing the right hand on the head of Ephraim, the youngest son, so that Ephraim received the blessing of the eldest son.



Isaac blessed Jacob and Jacob blessed Ephraim.

So, the first instances of laying on of hands in Scripture are for the imparting of blessing and authority. In the establishment of the covenant relationship with the nation of Israel, we see two more examples of the laying on of hands:

The instructions given by God for the sin offering was that the person giving the offering was to lay his hands on the head of the animal so that their sins were transferred from themselves to the animal (Leviticus 4:1-6, 13-15; Numbers 8-12). Through the act of laying on of the hands, God would recognize that the animal would “receive the guilt of the sin,” and the debt would be paid through the sacrifice of the animal.

Moses laid hands on Joshua, as the newly appointed leader of Israel. This was done so that the anointing of God would be upon Joshua and enable Him to do God’s will: “Now

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Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid hands upon him” (Numbers 27:18).

The ministry of laying on the hands has largely been lost by the church... However, with the charismatic movement’s focus on the gifting of the Holy Spirit, the practice has been revived. Most evangelical churches now recognise that God has ordained the laying on of hands for transferring or imparting blessing, authority, healing, and spiritual gifts.

2 The Doctrine of Laying on of Hands

2.1 *How does it work?*

When a believer lays his hands on someone, they are imparting the power of the Holy Spirit that is within them, through themselves into the other person. Therefore, for the ministry to be successful, the believer must be sure that they are in right standing with God and filled with the Holy Spirit.

2.2 *When do we lay hands on others?*

2.2.1 Healing:

The apostle Luke describes the laying on of hands in the healing ministry of Jesus:

Luke 4:40 (ESV)

“40 When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them.”

Mark 16:18 (ESV)

“18 They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover.”

2.2.2 The Infilling of the Holy Spirit:

Acts 8:17 (ESV)

“17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 19:6 (ESV)

“16 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came upon them.”

2.2.3 Receiving Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

1 Timothy 4:14 (ESV)

“14 Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you.”

The Holy Spirit is a gift-giver. “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them” (1 Corinthians 12:4). The spiritual gifts that believers possess are given to them by the Holy Spirit, as He determines in His wisdom. Committed prayer is required, so that God will reveal our gifting to us, that we can then use our spiritual gifts for His glory.

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2.2.4 The Recognition of Elders and Deacons:

1 Timothy 5:22 (ESV)

“22 Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.”

Paul is referring to the ordination of elders and this is not so much in warning against the physical action of laying on of hands, but rather urging great care in bestowing the responsibility of spiritual leadership. It is not to be done “suddenly” or without due consideration.

“These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them” (Acts 6:6).

2.2.5 Sending forth Members of the Church for the Great Commission:

Acts 13:3 (ESV)

“3 These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.”

The individual is publicly committing to service for God, this service is being recognized by the Church eldership, and the individual is sent forth with their blessing.

2.2.6 The Dedication of Little Children:

Matthew 19:13 (ESV)

“13 Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray.”

Children were brought to Jesus, by their parents, to be blessed by Him. In response, Jesus called the children to Him. Then He laid hands on the little ones and blessed them.

2.3 *What is the Purpose of Laying on of Hands?*

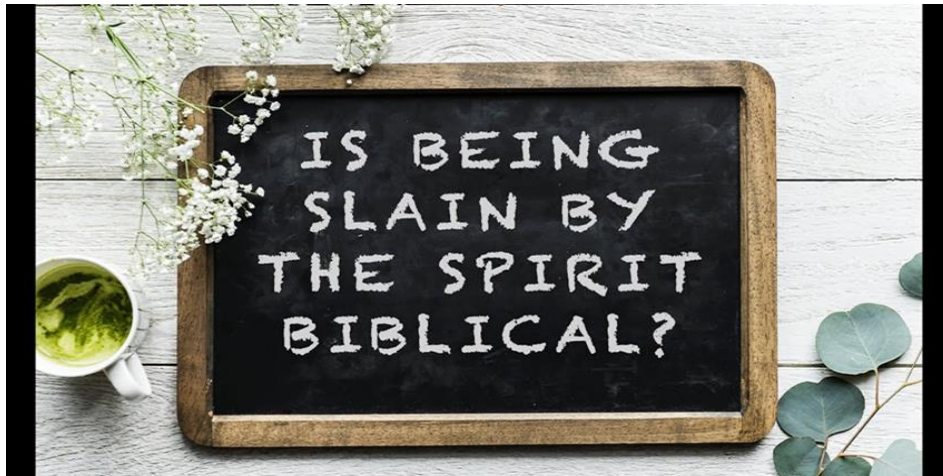


As can be seen from the previous slides, the laying on of hands is both a symbolic and formal method of invoking the Holy Spirit. The essence of laying on of hands then is on

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building and maintaining the body of Christ. With this in mind, we need to understand that there are no magical biblical formulas for the ministry of the Church. The practice of Laying on of hands has no power in itself. Laying on of hands is only used by God when it is done in agreement with God's Word. There is a connection being made here between the person praying, and the person being prayed for, so it is a "sign" indicating the impartation of the Holy Spirit.

2.4 What about Being Slain in the Spirit?



Yes! Ezekiel 1:28 & 3:23; Daniel 8:18; Acts 26:14; Revelation 1:17, all record instances of people falling under the power of the Holy Spirit.

When a believer is being prayed for, the Holy Spirit may come upon them in great power, to the extent that the person cannot remain standing under the full presence of the Holy Spirit, and they fall to the ground. So, when a person is being prayed for while standing, there should be one person standing in front of and one behind the person. This is so, that they will be harmed by the infilling power of the Holy Spirit, but that the person being prayed for may freely focus on the prayer and draw close to the Lord. They should be able to do this without wondering whether someone will catch them if they fall, or whether they may look undignified.

There are two other reasons why a person may fall to the ground when being prayed for:

It can be emotional or hypnotic suggestion. The big prosperity rallies use a method of hypnotic suggestion involving repetitive music and chanting which makes the participants extremely susceptible to suggestions from the "minister." These techniques are also widely used by New Age gurus.

The act can be demonic (Mark 9:17-18; Luke 8:26-28). To avoid prayer empowered by the Holy Spirit the demon-possessed person may be cast to the ground. The manifestation of the demon is not always evident so requires discernment from those attending to the individual.

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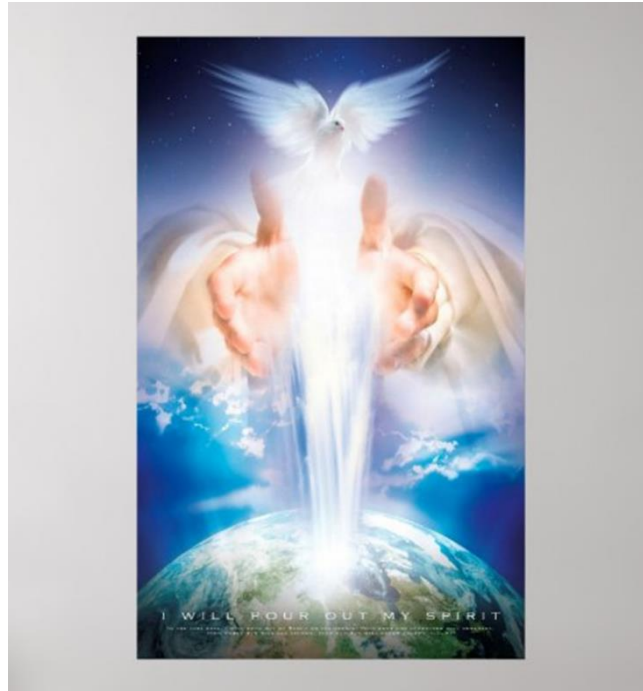
The big prosperity rallies of Benny Hinn and seeking to experience the Holy Spirit

In his letter, Paul exhorts Timothy “to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you,” Paul is encouraging Timothy to never to let the gift he has within him burn down to embers. Timothy was to continually stir up the flames with the bellows of action.

3 Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Paul’s instruction for all believers is that they are to eagerly desire the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This means that elders are to continually encourage members of their congregation to seek their gifting through the laying on of hands and prayer. To eagerly desire the gifts requires the person continually going before the Lord in prayer and asking Him to reveal the gifting they have received. The desire for the gift must be connected to a love of God, and a willingness to serve Him, and it should not be motivated by a religious spirit and a desire for selfish gain and the praises of men.

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If asked what their spiritual gift is, most Christians will not be able to tell you, or they will reply that it is to serve the church. This is because they do not fully understand the significance of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. A simple check into the Bible will reveal that there are three main places in Scripture that record a list of gifts given by the Holy Spirit, these gifts must be available to all believers who are in a state of grace. The first list in the New Covenant is recorded in the book of Romans (12:3-8) where Paul writes that the gifts “differ according to the grace given to us,” he then goes on to encourage the readers to use their gifts, listing them as: prophecy, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leadership and mercy.

The second New Covenant list is recorded by Paul in 1 Corinthians 12 and can be grouped into three groups of three:

- **Revelation:** Wisdom, knowledge, and distinguishing between spirits.
- **Power:** Faith, healing, and miracles.
- **Inspiration:** Prophecy, various kinds of tongues, and interpretation of tongues.

The final list is found in the book of Ephesians (4:11-13), where the fivefold ministry is recorded as being Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. These ministries are gifts from Jesus to the Church and are to be used “to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12).

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Table Showing the Three Gifting Lists:

Romans 12:3-8	1 Corinthians 12 (8-10)	Ephesians (4:11-13)
Prophecy	Wisdom	Apostles
Serving	Knowledge	Prophets
Teaching	Faith	Evangelists
Encouraging	Healing	Pastors
Giving	Miracles	Teachers
Leadership	Prophecy	
Mercy	Distinguishing between spirits	
	Speaking in tongues	
	Interpreting tongues	

Within these three lists, prophecy is mentioned three times. Prophecy in the New Covenant needs clarification, as there must be a distinction made between the Old Testament type of prophecy. This is the office of a prophet, and the gift of prophecy where the prophet is a divine interpreter of the Word, he is God's mouthpiece (Deuteronomy 18:18). They speak the direct authoritative word of God. The New Covenant gift of prophecy is the receipt of a divinely inspired message, with the purpose of edifying (instructing or improving morally or intellectually) the body of Christ. It is not a direct prophecy from God and is not equal to scripture. The prophecies usually take the form of exhortation or correction, (1 Corinthians 14:3-4, 24-25).

The prophecies must therefore be seen, not as the authoritative word of God, but as the human interpretation of the revelation that was received. They are spoken in human words through a human mind which is why they must be tested against the Scriptures (1 Thessalonians 5:20-21). Those who receive these prophecies should also seek confirmation from the Lord through another source. This is to ensure the prophecy is from God, and not from an individual seeking to be valued. So, there are two types of prophecy in the table above, the edifying prophecy (Romans and Corinthians) and the direct prediction of events that will happen in the future, which is given by a Prophet who is a gift to the Church (Ephesians).

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Taking the repetition of the gift of prophecy into consideration there are therefore 20 gifts of the Holy Spirit recorded in the three lists. I do not believe that these lists cover all the many gifts of the Holy Spirit. For example, the gift of service covers a large variety of talents that the church is able to benefit from. There are also the all-important prayer warriors, which not only involve compassion for others but also a daily dedication to spend considerable time conversing with the Lord. Then there is the gift that some have named “helps,” which should not be confused with the gift of mercy, they are similar, but there is a distinction. Those with the gift of “helps” are those who can with humility and grace aid or render assistance to others in the church.

So, this gifting is defined by its support role within the church, just as a great goal scorer like Renaldo requires players to pass him the ball, so too, do church ministries require support from others to be a success. This gifting, therefore, has a large range of possibilities for application. The book of Acts records that a woman named Tabitha was known as gifted in helping others: “Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity” (9:36). Although the scripture does not specifically mention the gifting, she exhibits the traits sufficiently for her to stand out within her church community.

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Whatever a person's gift is they must heed Paul's exhortation to Timothy, "to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you," Paul encouraged Timothy never to let the gift that he has within him burn down to embers. Timothy was to continually stir up the flames with the bellows of action.

Paul's instruction for all believers is that they are to eagerly desire the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This means that elders are to continually encourage members of their congregation to seek their gifting through the laying on of hands and prayer. To eagerly desire the gifts requires the person to continually go before the Lord in prayer and ask Him to reveal the gifting they have received. The desire for the gift must be connected to a love of God, and a willingness to serve Him, it should not be motivated by a religious spirit that seeks selfish gain and the praises of men.

The laying on of hands to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit is not a magic show, where the gift is suddenly manifest in the person. The gift of wisdom for example may be imparted to a person who has a burden from the Holy Spirit to study God's Word, followed by years of Holy Spirit-guided opportunities to grow and learn. There is an old expression "God helps those who help themselves." This is very true of receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit, God gives gifts to those who are motivated to seek His will for their lives and to dedicate themselves to His service.

A church that has encouraged its congregation to seek the gifts and to fan the flames of their gifts will have a church that is like a V20 Rolls Royce engine with all 20 cylinders firing, a church that the Holy Spirit will be able to bless with guidance, direction, authority, and power. On the contrary a church that does not encourage the congregation to seek the gifts will be the equivalent of a jalopy that sputters along.

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 14:1 that we should "earnestly desire the spiritual gifts". A believer should seek the Lord in prayer, to reveal the gifting they have been given, which

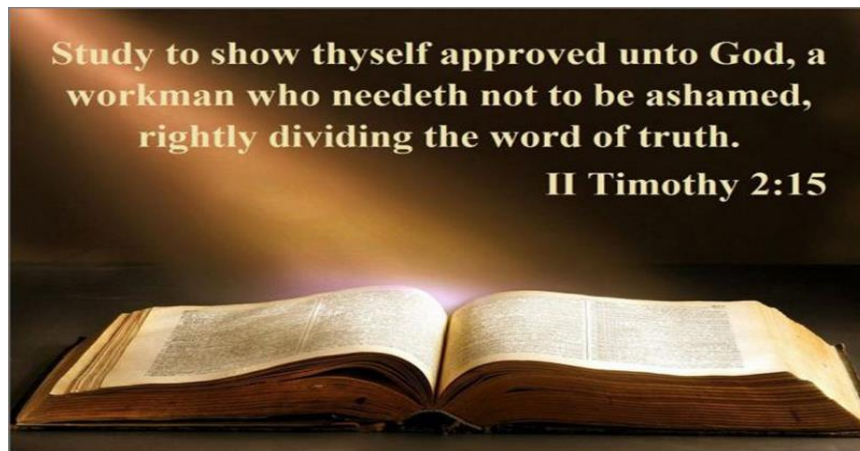
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will be an important part of the plan and purpose God has for their lives. Some of the gifts are listed below with a short explanation:

Serving: This is a general gifting and is established in a humble heart, a heart that desires to give of themselves in service of others. The gift of serving is also referred to as “ministering,” being derived from the Greek word diakonian, from which we get the English “deacon”. The deacons in scripture were called to serve the body of Christ, in such a way as to enable the elders to fulfil their responsibility of seeking the Lord for His direction over the church.



Teaching: This gifting involves the leading of believers to maturity in the Word of God, through instruction, analysis, and guidance. People with this gift not only have the unique ability to pass on information on scripture in general, and doctrines in particular, but are also given special insights into the depth of the word of God.



Encouraging: This gift is given to the genuine people person, who has a great love for God, His word, and His flock, as in the realm of pastoral gifting. The gift is also referred to as “exhortation,” as the individual is continually calling upon others to heed the word of God, and His calling on the individual's life. Therefore, this ministry will see the person

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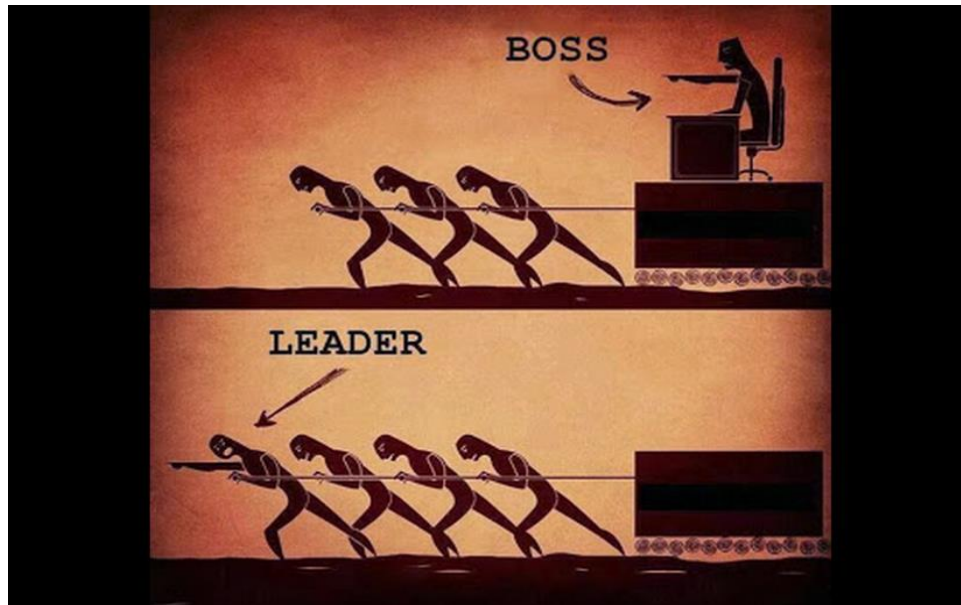
involved with lovingly correcting and admonishing errors, with a view to encourage and support the weak of faith through their trials and to establish them on firm ground with renewed faith.

Giving: The gift of giving is firstly of self when others need the giver's help and support. This giving may well extend to a financial or material blessing. Ultimately the giver has a concern for the needs of others and derives great joy from being able to assist in whatever way they can.



Leadership: This gifting involves organisational and management skills, and the individual leads from the front as an example to others, putting the needs of those under their care before their own. The Greek word means “to guide,” so the gifting has a shepherding requirement. The shepherd cares for His flock and guides them through the journey of life. This gifting requires a sound knowledge of the Word of God and the special wisdom required when guiding others. It also requires the fruits of the spirit, with patience heading top of that list.

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Mercy: This gift is best described as compassion. The individual has a love for others, with an empathy that enables them to give that extra compassion and support to those in need. Their understanding of the difficulties others face enables them to care for them in a loving giving way. Those with this gifting have a sensitivity towards others and the ability to cheerfully and kindly assist people in their times of hardship. They are also able to commit to sustained, standing in the gap prayer, for those in need.



Word of Wisdom: This is the gift given to Solomon, that enabled him to write the books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. This gift gives the receiver special understanding, discernment, and insight into Scripture, and enables them to skillfully pass on the truths revealed to them. The importance of this gift is that it is often imparted by the Holy Spirit when the church requires special guidance, direction, or discernment.

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Word of Knowledge: God has absolute perfect knowledge of all things, so the gift of knowledge is a special insight provided by the Holy Spirit. It is a supernatural revelation of unknown past or present, but never future. Conditions, circumstances, situations, attitudes, etc. are all included as events. The gift works in a specific, not a general fashion. An example in Scripture is that of Jesus and the Samaritan woman, at the well at Shechem. Jesus tells her specific that he knows about her adulterous lifestyle. The Holy Spirit provided Jesus with a word of knowledge which was the key to her future salvation. Another form of the gift of knowledge is when God provides Scripture that is the answer to a particular problem in the church, or a person's life.



Faith: All believers are gifted with a “measure of faith” at salvation (Romans 12:3). However, the spiritual gift of faith is given in a greater measure, enabling the recipient to have unshakeable confidence in God, His Word, and His promises. It is a supernatural progressively prolonged carrying out of active belief.

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The person with a gift of faith will have a strong and effective prayer ministry, where their faith is put into words, with those words bringing results.

Gifts of Healing: God is a creator God, and the believer with the gift of healing is capable of exactly that – creative acts. There is no healing too difficult for God, and the gifts of healing enables the believer to perform healing that restores an individual – no matter what their malady is – to full health. Note this is gifts of healing; indicating that the Holy Spirit gives different gifts of healings to be outworked through different believers in His Church.

Miraculous Powers: This gifting has a wide range of possibilities, from turning water into wine, to walking on water. The gifting involves supernatural events, that point to the power of God to move in the world. This gift would be most often used as a revelation to none-believers of the true God.

Distinguishing (discerning) of spirits: Satan is the father of lies, there is no truth in him (John 8:44). This gift is extremely important in discerning God's truth from Satan's lies, exposing deceptive and erroneous doctrine. Jesus said many would come in His name and would deceive many (Matthew 24:4-5), but the gift of discerning spirits is given to the Church to protect it from such as these.

The discerning of spirits gives insight into the spirit world:

- This gift reveals something.
- Revelation is limited to spirits
 - It is not the discerning of devils, evil spirits.
 - It has to do with spirits, both good and bad
- Its insight into the realm of the spirits

Spiritual Insight: There are therefore four gifts of the Holy Spirit that reveal hidden or unknown (1 Cor. 2:9-16) information to a believer.

- The gift of prophecy in the New Testament is the receiving of a divinely inspired message, with the purpose of edifying the body of Christ.
- The gift of wisdom is a special understanding, discernment, and insight into Scripture, it includes the ability to skillfully pass the truths revealed onto others.
- The gift of knowledge is a special insight provided by the Holy Spirit
- The gift of discernment of spirits is the ability to discern God's truths from Satan's lies.

Speaking in and different kinds of tongues: The speaking in tongues and gift of speaking in different kinds of tongues has become a contentious issue within the Church.

The speaking in tongues

The speaking in tongues first appears in the book of Acts, for the specific purpose of proclaiming the truth of Jesus as the Messiah, to the Jews attending the Feast of

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Pentecost in Jerusalem. Jews, who came from all parts of the Roman world, heard the Good News in their home language. Some theologians set this as the benchmark and require speaking in tongues to always be in known languages. Others see the speaking of tongues as a type of worship language, which is a Spirit-empowered capacity to speak meaningful words, using a divinely created language that is only understood by God.

The definition of speaking in tongues is that it is a supernatural utterance inspired by God in a tongue or language not known to the speaker or assembly. It may however be known to a stranger who may be listening:

And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? (Acts 2:7-8). Paul says that the one who speaks in a tongue "speaks not to men but to God" (1 Cor. 14:2).

Biblical requirements for speaking in tongues and the gift of different tongues are:
Speaking in tongues is for every believer who is baptised or infilled by the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:4 (ESV)

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Every believer who is filled with the Holy Spirit receives this outworking and enabling to speak a different tongues/language. Not everyone seems to activate this outworking for many and varied reasons.

1 Corinthians 14:15 (ESV)

15 What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.

Speaking tongues as a form of worship to God

Jude 20 (ESV)

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit,

Speaking in tongues is a way in which an individual may give thanks to God.

Speaking in tongues must never replace individual prayer and worship in a person's life, tongues must be seen as an aid to this practice: "I will pray with my spirit (tongues), but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit (tongues), but I will sing with my mind also" (1 Cor. 14:15).

1 Corinthians 14:18 (ESV)

18 I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.

Yet in church he almost never did. Why? Because he wanted to speak in a language that all who were listening would be able to understand.

The gift of different kinds of tongues as the Spirit wills.

1 Corinthians 12:10 (NKJV)

10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. This is different to speaking in tongues; this is a gifting given to believers in the Church.

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1 Corinthians 14:27 (ESV)

27 If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret.

The speaking of different kinds of tongues in the public gathering of the church needs to be interpreted under eldership oversight and governance.

Interpretation of tongues: This gift is an important connection with the gift of different kinds of tongues. Interpretation of tongues enables the individual to understand what a tongues-speaker is saying, even though they were unfamiliar with the language that was being spoken. It is a supernatural insight and is not the ability to understand the language spoken, it is not a translation. Having had the meaning of a message revealed to them, the tongues interpreter will then communicate the message of the tongue's speaker to everyone else. Therefore, all in the congregation will be able to understand, and benefit from what the Lord has communicated to the church.

4 The Five-fold Gift Ministries

Ephesians 4:11-13 (ESV)

“11 It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

Apostle: The definition of an apostle is “a sent one,” and they have duties to assist a Church to grow and perform to their full potential. The duty is therefore more focused on the development of church planting. An Apostle is focused on the growth of mature believers and on making disciples.

Pastor: The pastor is the shepherd of the flock, concerned with all aspects that influence the welfare of his congregation, with a focus on their spiritual development. His role is most often that of the lead elder within the Church – “first among equals.”

Evangelist: An evangelist has the important ministry of making new converts for the growth of the church. They have a great burden for the lost and carry a simple message of salvation to the community. A New Testament example is that of Philip, who is the only one specifically called an evangelist (Acts 21:8). In Acts 8 he fulfils his calling by leading the Ethiopian eunuch to a saving knowledge of Jesus.

Teacher: The focus of a teacher is to impart the anointed word of God to the congregation, with the aim of developing believers who are mature and able to chew on

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the “meat” of the Word. The gifting allows the teacher to illuminate God’s word and to bring an understanding of the depth and richness of God’s Word for the Church.

Prophet: A true prophet never speaks on their own authority or influences their message with their own opinion but will dutifully deliver that which God has revealed to them. This is made clear in numerous Old Testament examples which begin with the words, “The word of the LORD that came to ...” (Hos. 1:2; Joel 1:1; Micah 1:1; Zeph. 1:1; cf. Jonah 1:1). All prophets are held to a strict standard of judgement: no true prophet will call people to corrupt their worship of God in any way (Deut. 13:2), nor can any prophecy prove false (Deut. 18:22. See also Jer. 14:14; 23:21, 32; 28:15; Ezek. 13:6). Prophets receive messages from God in three different ways, dreams, visions and through an inner voice. A New Testament example is Agabus in Acts 21:10.

All five gift ministries are held to higher accountability. Their goal is not to serve person with the gift, not to enrich themselves, but to serve the people of God so that they are able to grow and attain all the fullness of their Saviour (Eph. 4:12-13).

5 Conclusion

Gifting must be understood from God’s point of view, not from our own pride-contaminated perspective. We need to, always, avoid the error of the Corinthian Church, where gifts became a status symbol. The dishwasher could receive more rewards in heaven than the lead elder because God measures the heart behind the deed, not the deed itself. Gifts are given for the advancement of the Kingdom, we are all servants of God, who have been detailed with specific roles within the Kingdom. How we fulfil that role is our measure of worth, not the role itself. We are the clay and God is the potter, who shapes us into a vessel of honour for His purposes: “To each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it” (Ephesians 4:7). God deals to everyone his portion. Not everyone receives all the gifts, nor is the same gift given to everyone in the same measure. God, according to His sovereign will for our lives, gives each person the gifts that they will require to fulfil the ministry He has ordained for them. Each person is a part of the body of Christ, each organ has a different function, and each organ is vital for the health and functioning of the body.

The goal for the gifts of the Holy Spirit is to glorify God. Exodus 31 records the narrative where Bezalel and Oholiab were empowered by the Holy Spirit to build the Tabernacle. Each day these men would go forth guided by the Holy Spirit in the construction of the Tabernacle. We as builders of God’s Church should pray before the start of each day, for God’s Holy Spirit to guide us through His plans and purposes for our lives during that day. Then at the end of each day we will be able to look back and marvel at what the Holy Spirit can achieve in our lives, when we allow Him to take the reins.

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6 Practical Application – How?

Laying on of hands is an act in which one person places his hands upon the body of another person, with a definite spiritual purpose. God has ordained the laying on of hands for transferring or imparting blessing, authority, healing, and spiritual gifts.

7 Proclamation

I understand the importance of the doctrine of laying on of hands in maintaining the body of Christ. I promise to practice the Laying on of hands in agreement with God's Word. I recognise that this action is done to make a connection between myself, and the person being prayed for and that it is a "sign" indicating the impartation of the Holy Spirit. The action will lead to the conferring of a blessing or authority, emphasising the bond between believers through the power of the Holy Spirit.

8 Prayer

Lord, thank you for providing your Holy Spirit so that I can receive wisdom, understanding, and counsel from your Spirit and the empowerment to minister in the supernatural. I am grateful for the ministry of laying on of hands, through which I may receive all that you have intended for me. As your child look to you for direction and guidance as I seek to fulfil your plans and purposes for my life.

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9 Assignments

Laying on of Hands

1. In your own words define the laying on of hands as a practice within the Church. **(4)**
 2. Using Numbers 27:15-20 highlight the important aspects of ordination and commissioning. **(6)**
- Total (10)**