5/31/2023

Bible Study

Pastor Mark Choate

**Miracle Workers**

**The Burning of the books**

**Miracle** is all what we desire in every areas of our lives. When you **seek God’s presence** and request Him to intervene in your situation, he will never fail you when it’s according to his well.

**Miracles Glorify Christ**

**Acts 19 11- 13**

11 Now **God worked unusual miracles** by the hands of **Paul**, 12 so that even **handkerchiefs** or **aprons were brought from his body to the sick**, and the **diseases left them** and the **evil spirits went out of them**. 13 Then some of the itinerant **Jewish exorcists** took it upon themselves to call the **name of the Lord Jesus** over those who had evil spirits, saying, “We exorcise you **by the Jesus whom Paul preaches**.”

**seven sons of Sceva**

**Acts 19 14- 13**

14 Also there were **seven sons of Sceva**, a Jewish chief priest, who did so.

15 And the **evil spirit answered and said**, “**Jesus I know**, and **Paul I know**; **but who are you**?”16 Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, **overpowered** them, and **prevailed against them**, so that they **fled out of that house naked** and **wounded**. 17 This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and **fear fell on them all**, and **the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified**. 18 And many who had believed came **confessing** and **telling their deeds**. 19 Also, many of those who had **practiced magic** brought their books together and **burned them in the sight of all**. And they **counted up the value of them**, and it totaled **fifty thousand pieces of silver**. 20 So the word of the Lord **grew mightily** and **prevailed**.

**the gates of Hades shall not prevail**

**Matthew 16:18 NKJV**

18 And I also say to you that you are **Peter**, and on this rock I will **build my church,** and the gates of Hades **shall not prevail against** it.

**For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous**

**1 Peter 3:12**

12 For the **eyes of the Lord are on the righteous**,

And His **ears are open to their prayers**;

But the face of the Lord is **against those who do evil**.”

**faith should not be in the wisdom of men**

**1 Corinthians 2:5 NKJV**

5 That your faith should not be **in the wisdom of men** but in **the power of God**.

**What does the Bible teach about “the laying on of hands**,”

 How should this ancient ritual function, or not, in the church today?

Like anointing with oil, much confusion often surrounds these outward signs which the New Testament has very little (but something) to say.

**Like fasting**, the **laying on of hands** and **anointing with oil** go hand in hand with prayer. Because of the way God has made the world, and wired our own hearts, on certain special occasions we reach for something tangible, physical, and visible to complement, or serve as a sign of, what is happening invisibly and what we’re capturing with invisible words.

**First-Covenant Foundations**

Throughout the Bible, we find **both positive** and **negative senses** of “the laying on of hands,” as well as “general” (everyday) or “special” (ceremonial).

**In the Old Testament**

In the Old Testament, the **general use is most often negative**: to “lay hands” on someone is to **inflict harm** (Genesis 22:12; 37:22; Exodus 7:4; Nehemiah 13:21; Esther 2:21; 3:6; 6:2; 8:7), or in Leviticus 24:14 to visibly **lay God’s curse on the person who will bear it**. We also find a special use, especially in Leviticus (1:4; 3:2, 8, 13; 4:4, 15, 24, 29, 33; 16:21; also Exodus 29:10, 15, 19; Numbers 8:12), where the **duly appointed priests “lay hands**” on a sacrifice to ceremonially place God’s righteous **curse on the animal**, instead of on the **sinful people**.

**For instance**, on the Day of Atonement, the climactic day of the Jewish year, the high priest “shall lay both his hands on the **head of the live goat**, and **confess over it** all the **iniquities of the people of Israel**, and all their transgressions, all their sins. And he shall put them on the head of the goat and **send it away into the wilderness**.” (**Leviticus 16:21**)

**prepared God’s people for the new covenant**

This special (or ceremonial) laying on of hands is likely what **Hebrews 6:1** refers to when mentioning six teachings, among others, in the first covenant (“the elementary doctrine of Christ”) that **prepared God’s people for the new covenant**: “**repentance** from **dead works and of faith toward God**, and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment”

**The Peril of Not Progressing**

**Hebrews 6:1–2**

6 Therefore, leaving the **discussion of the elementary principles** of Christ, let us go on to **perfection**, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of **faith toward God**,