FREELY RECEIVE AND FREELY GIVE

Catechism Two, Lesson 21

Reading: Matthew 10:1–16

1. Why Did Jesus Instruct The Twelve To Give What They Had Received?

It is a principle or law in God’s kingdom that we must give. We must pass on what God gives to us if we are to continue growing. Our blessings are not meant to be hoarded. If our outflow does not equal our intake, we will become overstuffed and stagnant—of no use in the kingdom of God. The law of receptivity is that we must keep a flow, a balance between giving and receiving.

A. The basis of kingdom living is giving.

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again (Luke 6:38).

B. The basis of Christian ministry is serving.

But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all (Mark 10:43, 44).

C. The source for life and ministry is God’s Spirit.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father (John 14:12).

D. We only prosper spiritually by allowing the Spirit to flow through us.

There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself (Prov. 11:24–25).

2. What Were Jesus’ Major Areas Of Ministry While On Earth?

Jesus Himself is our example in all matters of life and ministry. He had the Holy Spirit without measure. He so completely expressed the character and purposes of God that we can say, “Jesus put a face on God.” He is God in visible and tangible form—God made available to us. While on earth, Jesus used His voice and His hands to pour God’s love and mercy into needy lives.

A. Jesus taught and preached.

… the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes (Matt. 7:28, 29).

B. Jesus healed the sick.

… and he … healed all that were sick (Matt. 8:16).

C. Jesus cast out demons.

But if I with the finger of God cast out devils [demons], no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you (Luke 11:20).

D. Jesus blessed the children.

And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them.… And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them (Mark 10:13, 16).

The laying on of hands was Jesus’ means of giving life or virtue both in healing and in blessing. At times, the spoken word was not all He used; many times a personal touch was needed as well. Jesus’ hands were a significant channel of His ministry. They should be in ours as well.

3. How Many Of Jesus’ Ministries Did He Pass On To His Disciples?

All of them—except for His unique death as a ransom for our sins. If we study Jesus’ earthly ministry, we know what to expect the Holy Spirit to do through us. Jesus is the pattern for our faith. The laying on of hands was specifically a part of the Great Commission. What Jesus did in word and deed, we are to carry on.

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not nurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover (Mark 16:15–18).

A. Any disciple (disciplined follower of Christ) may lay hands on the sick and expect results.

And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord.… And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost (Acts 9:10, 17).

B. Elders of the local church must be able to pray for the sick in faith.

Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord (James 5:14).

4. Is Healing Actually Transmitted By The Laying On Of Hands?

Healing is essentially a spiritual transaction, but it results in the repair and restoration of ailing bodies

and minds. God uses several means for communicating healing to the sick through believers: the spoken word, anointing with oil, laying on of hands, anointed cloths. Most often, God uses some form of loving touch as the medium for imparting healing and strength into the sick and injured. As we examine some of the many Bible examples of physical healing, we discover that hands were usually the means used. In this way God showed Himself willing to become thoroughly involved with His people and their needs.

A. Jesus’ involvement with the people brought total release from both spiritual and physical distress.

Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them. And devils [demons] also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God … (Luke 4:40, 41).

B. Jesus spoke the word first to enable people to believe as He laid hands upon them.

And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself, And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God (Luke 13:11–13).

C. Sometimes the simple touch of His healing love was enough to bring healing.

And when Jesus was come into Peter’s house, he saw his wife’s mother laid, and sick of a fever. And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them (Matt. 8:14, 15).

D. When people touched Jesus in faith, virtue left Him to enter them as healing.

And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years.… When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague. And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue [or power] had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes? (Mark 5:25, 27–30).

Notice that Jesus Himself perceived the virtue leaving Him. He knew someone had been healed. He recognized the touch of faith and felt literal energy being released from within Himself. Many attempt to explain healing as merely self-hypnosis, a convincing of ourselves that something has happened. But this account clearly shows us that healing is an objective transaction—something really happens that is more than in our imaginations.

E. Healing energy was transmitted from the body of Paul to clothes.

And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them (Acts 19:11, 12).

The relationship of loving rapport between the one laying hands on the sick and the sick person himself is important, but it is not all there is to it. Healing is more than positive suggestion. Something very real was imparted into these clothes and taken to the sick who never saw Paul in person. This was just as effective as the laying on of his hands in their presence. Healing is evidently as real a power in this universe as electricity or radium.

5. What Do We Call This Transfer Of Power From God Through The Laying On Of Hands.

We call it impartation. Impartation is really a fancy way of saying, as we said earlier, that hands are for giving. Webster defines impartation in this way: to impart—to give or grant what one has by contact, association, or influence; to communicate or transmit.

Just as the wires carry electricity to the designated destination, so hands bring the power and love of God into the circle of need. Impartation is most easily observed in the case of healing, but as we continue to study this doctrine of laying on of hands, we will find that it takes place in many spiritual works as well. The gift we give and the blessing we bestow through the laying on of hands is very real—as real as the God we serve.

Home Study: Lesson 21

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. An equality of intake and outgo is necessary to maintain\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. List Jesus’ major areas of ministry while on earth.

a.

b.

c.

d.

Underline those which required the use of His hands.

3. Who may pray for the sick and lay hands upon them?

4. What happens when we lay hands upon the sick?

5. What is “impartation”?