

## Ministry of impartation (laying of hands)

- **Introduction**

- Strictly speaking, a lot of spiritual things in this church like fire, anointing, authority, and blessing is given to us by impartation.
- W/o impartation, it is hard to be where we are at now.
- W/o impartation, it is hard for growth to take place.
- Of course, it is possible to receive anointing or gifts directly from God.
  - E.g. Moses, Abraham, John the Baptist, Elijah, all receive the anointing this way.
- But on another hand, there were also many great men of faith who received the anointing through impartation.
  - E.g. David, Elisha, Joshua, and all the disciples of JC.
- Not to talk about the great man of faith in modern days church.
  - E.g. Reinhard Bonnke, Benny Hinn, Henry Gruver, they all claimed to have experience of receiving impartation from other great man of faith in some parts of their life.

- **So what we can say of this: -**

- **1)** we have to acknowledge the ways of God, i.e. God can anoint a person by Himself, or He can anoint a person through others.
- **2)** The common and biblical way God does things is through the church, and therefore He works through men and women who were appointed to perform the ministry of impartation to impart gifts to others.
- **3)** We should not be arrogant saying we don't need impartation from others (as in we need God and don't need help from others.)
  - Even Paul who said 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me' was asking for help from the church or have received help from the church many times.
- **4)** On the other hand, we should not be too skeptical about people whom God so chooses to anoint him directly. E.g. Ps Kim (?)
- **5)** Since ministry of impartation is a ministry that is real, biblical and God's way of rising up the believers into their calling, ministry and destiny, we should not take this ministry too lightly or for granted.

- **6)** Of course, on the other hand, we should not abuse it, or use it according to our own will for own agendas.
    - The corruption of church is when you got to do something like paying money or give huge offerings for the impartation.
  - **7)** We thus need to understand this ministry in the light of truth and in the light of the heart of God.
- **First, we got to understand why this ministry of impartation is important.**
  - **Purpose of laying of hands**
    - **1) Heb 6:2** – laying of hands is a basic doctrine of the church – i.e. **a doctrine taught to beginners of faith.**
    - Of course, laying of hands can be for the purpose of healing, but I don't think the teaching to believers about laying of hands at that time is simply about healing.
    - In **Heb 6:2**, the laying of hands is mentioned after baptism and before the resurrection of the dead (i.e. referring to end times).
    - From observation of the items mentioned in **Heb 6:2**, it suggests that the doctrine of laying of hands is focused more on the growth and the sanctification of the church.
    - Meaning after baptism, Christians need to understand impartation as part of their journey of faith.
    - E.g. in our church, we impart fire, and fire is for our sanctification and also for our ministry to help others maintain sanctified life.
    - So the purpose of impartation is go that members can grow and be sanctified, leading victorious life, which includes ability to minister to others.
    - **2) Impartation of Holy Spirit**
    - We see it in the ministry of the early church.
    - E.g. **Acts 8:15-17**, the believers were baptized by the Holy Spirit before the laying of hands.
    - So laying of hands by apostles is seen like an activation (a recognition that the Samaritans are the believers of Jesus, and thus the church.)
    - The ministry of impartation must be understood as ministry to strengthen the church, and for establishing of the church.

- **3) Commissioning**
- That is what happens when the apostles were sent out for mission, e.g. **Acts 13:3**, they were sent off through the placing of hands (by the church)
- Thus, we should not take receiving impartation as simply receiving anointing, but as a commissioning to go and establish the church.
- Even the Apostle Paul received the impartation at the time of his conversion. (**Acts 9:17**)
- **4) Impartation of gifts to make one strong**
- That's why in Paul's ministry to the churches, there was emphasis of the impartation of gifts.
- **Rom 1:11** – '*impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong.*'
- The purpose of impartation of spiritual gifts is to make the believer strong, to strengthen the church.
- What are these gifts?
- The Greek word is "Charismata" – used in **1 Cor 12:4, 9, 28**. Also in **Rom 12:6**, which means gifts like healing, word of knowledge, wisdom, leadership, serving, teaching, etc.
- So gifts are imparted.
- As hands are laid on us, the key is to believe.

- **The next thing is to fan it up.**

- **1 Tim 4:14**, Paul reminded Timothy about the gift that was imparted to him (by the body of elders) (also through prophecy)
  - What type of gift was imparted to Timothy by elders? Probably, gift of teaching from the context in **v13**.
- **2 Tim 1:6** – fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.
  - **What type of gift was imparted to Timothy by Paul?** Probably, the gift of apostleship, boldness or teaching or anything that builds the church.
- This is the importance of the ministry of impartation.
- W/o impartation, leaders could not be established, and church could not be strengthened.
- God has ordained the church to be run this way.

- Of course, one can receive impartation (anointing) in some sort through other means like reading the Word, watching a sermon, or reading a book, but impartation from the church is a common way.
- Why? This is a way for accountability to church and to each other.
- **With this, we come to the next part on ministry of impartation in the perspective of community.**
- **Ministry of impartation is about love.**
  - It must be carried out with love and interest of the party receiving impartation.
  - The word 'impart' in Greek is 'metadidomi'
    - Formed by 2 words:
      - Meta – joined
      - Didomi – give/bestow
  - In a sense, impartation is about **connection (joined) or fellowship.**
  - Or connection of the spirit – witnessing.
  - It means '**to share**'.
    - 'metadidomi' also used in **Luke 3:11** (the man with 2 tunics must share)
  - In a sense, those who have (the anointing or gifts) must share with the community.
  - That's the reason why in Zoe Ministry, after receiving ministry of impartation, we hold hands with each other to activate the gifts.
  - Holding of hands is about connection to one another in the community, and sharing gifts with one another in the community.
  - Understand that anointing or fire is not something that you possess for yourself.
  - You need to flow it out and share with others.
  - As you share, you will have more.
  - In **Rom 1:12** it mentioned about '***you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.***'
  - That means as you receive the impartation, you will be encouraged.

- Also, as you impart to others, and you see the growth of faith, and the works of God, you also will be encouraged.
- That's why Paul warned Timothy not to do the impartation hastily. (**1 Tim 5:22**)
- **Do not be hasty in laying of hands.**
  - **1 Tim 5:22 – “Do not be hasty in laying on of hands.”**
  - Why did Paul warn Timothy on the matters of impartation?
    - It shows that Timothy was supposed to perform the ministry of impartation to his church.
    - And that should be carried out in proper manner.
    - **v21** talks about favoritism. That means there is a risk of doing impartation through favoritism. E.g. You like the person more; you impart them with more gifts.
    - **v22**, second half talks about not sharing with the sins of others. That is if you do not maintain your purity, you would either impart wrong things to others (your evil to others), or you might get a backflow. Meaning evil from others could come to you.
    - Rule of thumb is if you are not led to do impartation, then don't do it.
    - If you do not maintain a good prayer life, then don't do it.
    - If you do not have enough fire, then don't do it.
    - On the other hand, if you do not have peace to receive impartation from the minister you do not know well, then you should not receive his impartation.
    - Ministry of impartation should not be done hastily, meaning includes we should not carry it out by force or without love.
    - When is the time we will be doing things hastily?
      - E.g. when we are late for something, we rush or do a rush job, or without preparation. That is being hasty.
      - Or when we were impatient, angry, rude, or manifesting self.
      - Making fun out of people or pushing people down, without due consideration of people's pain or embarrassment is also considered as being hasty.

- We should not do the ministry of impartation anyhow, or w/o discernment the will of God, or abuse the power of our leadership.
- But do it in the context of love and purity. That is what it means.
- **Condition of one administering the laying of hands.**
  - We got to be reminded to keep ourselves pure in administering the ministry of impartation.
  - Of course, to do the ministry of impartation in church, you got to be approved by the church.
- **Can a minister impart on someone something he doesn't have?**
  - E.g. the pastor does not operate much in dreams and visions. Can he impart the anointing of dreams and visions to others?
  - Errm....it depends on context and situation.
    - E.g. There are some things I know I have, like gift o discernment of spirit and I can impart to you.
      - E.g. Elisha could open the eyes of his servant, because he too could see in the spiritual realm.
    - But for things I yet to have, there might be a limit (depending on what the Holy Spirt says.)
      - E.g. I don't think I can impart the type of gifts that Henry Gruver has, such as listening to voice of the innocent blood, because I don't move much in that, unless it is something that the Holy Spirit specifically says to impart.
    - It would largely depend on situation, the needs and authority of the pastor.
      - E.g. Ps Kim does not move in the gift of seeing through, but he could open the eyes of his members to have gift of seeing through. He could also open the eyes of the members to see the spiritual realm and angels, and he could close it after a while.
      - Why? Because he is sitting in the office of apostle, who has the authority to assign gifts to his church.
    - In the past, I was able to open eyes for gift of seeing through, though I do not have the gift of seeing through.
    - But I would not see myself as one who would do the ministry of impartation(ordination) for an evangelist coming from elsewhere,

because I am not sitting in the office of evangelist. It might be better for a God's approved servant who is an evangelist to do the impartation.

- Of course, if he is my church member, then I would have the authority to impart on him the gift of evangelist.
- However, if God so will it, then it is highly possible.
  - E.g. In **Acts 9**, Ananias was sent to lay his hands on Saul, not just to open his eyes, but to impart him for the filling of the Holy Spirit.
  - Who was Ananias? He was just a disciple of Jesus. He wasn't an apostle to begin with.
  
  - Later who did the impartation on Paul to be an apostle?
  - In **Acts 13**, it was a group of leaders of church who were prophets and teachers.
  - Paul's impartation to be apostle was not done by any of the 12 apostles. It was not done even by a known apostle in the church.
  - He was set apart by God of course, but God allowed the church to place their hands to set apart Paul for the apostolic ministry.
- So there are some things I don't have distinctively, I could do it through the authority as an apostle, who could assign duties and position of the church members.
- Like prophets in the Old, they were not kings, but they anoint kings, because of their spiritual authority.
- **Lastly, ministry of impartation understood in the context of God's heart.**
  - It must be understood in the context of love (sharing), church (strengthening, commissioning, order & authority) and purity (**1 Tim 5:22** – there is possibility of receiving a wrong spirit)
  - 1) God love to bless. God wants to empower His church.
  - 2) God wants to lighten the work load of the leader, and He would love to empower the people.
    - E.g. **Num 11:16-17**
    - **V29, 'I wish all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put His Spirit on them.'**
    - Moses spoke the heart of God, which in the Day of Pentecost, this was fulfilled when God poured out His Spirit on all people.