

THE POWER IN THE TOUCH

July 31, 2022 Various texts by Bob Branch
Alive In The Spirit, part 11

BIG IDEA: The power of touch and how God uses it.

God's Spirit works thru touch. And, humans are built for touch.

What is God like? He is like Jesus. (Col. 1:15)

"Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy." **Matthew 8:2-3; 14-15**

"People were bringing *little children to Jesus* for him to place his hands on them... and he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them."

Mark 10:13, 16

Mark 5:23, 41-42

Luke 13:12-13

Jesus washed his disciples' feet. (John 13)

"Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." **John 20:27**

Mark 5:27-34

"people tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all." **Luke 6:19**

"begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed." **Matthew 14:36**

God is a God who touches people and can be touched.

God is high-touch, and works thru touch.

- They laid hands on leaders and workers to **set them apart for ministry**. (Acts 6:6; 13:3; 1 Tim. 5:22)
- They laid hands on leaders as a commissioning, **sending them out**. (Acts 13:3)
- They laid hands **on the sick for healing**, like Jesus taught them to, and God worked through their touch. (Acts 3:7; 9:17; 40-41; 9:41; James 5:14; Mk. 16:18c)
- They laid hands on for **being filled/baptized/empowered by the Spirit**. (Acts 8:17; 9:17; 19:6)
- They laid hands for others for the **impartment of spiritual gifts**. (1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6; Acts 9:17)
- We lay hands of **people being baptized**, the Spirit moves, speaks, encourages.

The SPIRIT works through touch!

¹ **You _____ touch and prayer.** When we give an invitation, come up. Ask, believe.

² **You _____ touch & prayer.** Putting ourselves in a receptive space is beyond simply getting prayer.

³ **You _____ touch and prayer.** Lay your hands on and pray for anything that moves!

⁴ **See _____ and God's Spirit moving through it.**

⁵ _____.