THE QUESTION

What did the early Christians believe about laying on of hands after baptism?

Asked by a THF member on May 21, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 11 numbered quotations · the 18 early Christian passages and 147 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-did-the-early-christians-believe-about-laying-on-of-hands-after

The short answer *From the text: says what the passages say*

The early writers taught that after baptism a bishop laid hands on the newly baptized, praying for the Holy Spirit to come upon them, as the apostles did in Samaria. Baptism cleansed and prepared them; the laying on of hands called down the Spirit. Churches also used it to receive converts and restore penitents.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
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IN THIS STUDY

1	Hands are laid on to invite the Spirit	2	6	Converts from heresy were received this way	4
2	The practice follows the apostles in Samaria	2	7	Repentant sinners were restored with hands	5
3	It comes after baptism, for the renewed	3		What these passages don't tell us	5
4	Bishops, not lay people, laid on hands	3		The Sources: 18 early Christian passages and 147 Bible verses, with links	5
5	Those who died before it were still believers	4			

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POINT 1 OF 7

Hands are laid on to invite the Spirit

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Tertullian says that after the washing, hands are laid on the baptized while the Holy Spirit is called on through blessing. He explains that the water cleanses and prepares a person, and then the Spirit comes upon the cleansed and blessed body.

1 “Next, hands are laid on us, calling on and inviting the Holy Spirit through blessing.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On Baptism* 8 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 2, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

2 “It is not that we receive the Holy Spirit in the water itself. Rather, in the water, under the witness of the angel, we are made clean and prepared for the Holy Spirit.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On Baptism* 6 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 3, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 7

The practice follows the apostles in Samaria

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Apostolic Constitutions retell Acts 8, where the apostles came to Samaria and laid hands on all who had been baptized so they would share in the Spirit. Origen also says that in Acts the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands.

3 “After speaking at length about the word of doctrine, we laid our hands on all who had been baptized, and we gave them a share in the Spirit.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 11, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

4 “In the Acts of the Apostles, the Holy Spirit was given in baptism through the laying on of the apostles' hands.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 3 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 5, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
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POINT 3 OF 7

It comes after baptism, for the renewed

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Origen teaches that the Spirit dwells in those who are renewed, not in all people. For this reason, he says, the grace of the Spirit was given by the apostles' hands after baptism.

5 “Lastly, for this reason the grace and revelation of the Holy Spirit was bestowed by the laying on of the apostles' hands after baptism.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 3 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 4, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 7

Bishops, not lay people, laid on hands

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

An early treatise speaks of the Spirit given to each believer by the laying on of the bishop's hands. The Apostolic Constitutions list the laying on of hands among duties lay people may not take for themselves.

6 “For when the Holy Spirit is given to each believer by the laying on of the bishop’s hands, as happened with the Samaritans after Philip’s baptism, the apostles gave them the Holy Spirit by laying hands on them in this way.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Anonymous,** *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 **Source 18, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

7 “We also do not allow the laity to perform any of the duties that belong to the priesthood, such as the sacrifice, baptism, the laying on of hands, or the blessing, whether the lesser or the greater.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 14, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
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POINT 5 OF 7

Those who died before it were still believers

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The same treatise notes that many people died after baptism without the bishop's hands ever being laid on them. He says they were still counted as complete believers.

8 “Nor can it be doubted that the same kind of thing is common in the present day and happens often: many people, after baptism, leave this life without the laying on of the bishop's hands, and yet are considered complete believers.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Anonymous,** *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 **Source 15, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 7

Converts from heresy were received this way

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The treatise describes an old custom of receiving those baptized outside the Church by the bishop's hands alone. Cyprian disagreed and argued they must be baptized, but he also shows hands were laid on such converts so they might receive the Spirit.

9 “The point is whether, according to the most ancient custom and ecclesiastical tradition, after that baptism which they received outside the Church, but still in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, it would be enough that only hands should be laid on them by the bishop for their reception of the Holy Spirit, and that this laying on of hands would provide them with the renewed and perfected seal of faith.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Anonymous,** *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 **Source 16, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

10 “If they have Him, why are hands laid on those who were baptized among them when they come to us, so that they may receive the Holy Spirit, since He must surely have been received there, where, if He was there, He could also be given?”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 8, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
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POINT 7 OF 7

Repentant sinners were restored with hands

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Apostolic Constitutions tell the bishop to welcome a repentant sinner like the prodigal son. The whole church prays, and the bishop restores him by the laying on of hands, which serves him instead of a second baptism.

11

> "And as you receive a heathen after you have instructed and baptized him, so also let all join in prayers for this man, and restore him by the laying on of hands to his former place among the flock, as one purified by repentance. And that laying on of hands shall be to him instead of baptism."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) *THF's updated English* **Source 10, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**

THE LIMITS

What these passages don't tell us

- These passages do not give one fixed set of words or prayers used when hands were laid on.
- Writers disagreed about whether converts baptized outside the Church needed only the laying on of hands or a new baptism.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 18 early Christian passages and 147 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–18, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 19–129, in Bible order), then 36 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF's updated English unless marked "1885 English" (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). "… [continues online]" marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

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EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *18 passages from 7 writers*

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · source 1*

1 *Epistles of Ignatius* (on point 4) “baptize, offer sacrifice, ordain, and lay on hands… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 2–3*

2 *On Baptism* 8 (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** “the next place the hand is laid on us, invoking and inviting the Holy Spirit through benediction… [continues online] **read ›**

3 *On Baptism* 6 (1885 English) **Quote 2, page 2** “after the pledging both of the attestation of faith and the promise of salvation under three witnesses, there is added, of necessity, mention of the Church… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 4–5*

4 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 3 (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 3** “for this reason was the grace and revelation of the Holy Spirit bestowed by the imposition of the apostles' hands after baptism… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 3 **Quote 4, page 2** “the Acts of the Apostles, the Holy Spirit… [continues online] **read ›**

Dionysius of Alexandria, *c. 232–265 AD · source 6*

6 *Epistles and Epistolary Fragments* (1885 English; on point 6) “they had already previously received the Holy Spirit from that very baptism… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 7–9*

7 *Epistles* (on point 6) “had already been baptized by John before the Holy Spirit had been sent by the Lord, and then laid hands on them so that they might receive the Holy Spirit… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *Epistles* **Quote 10, page 4** Since in baptism each person has his own sins forgiven, the Lord proves and declares in His Gospel that sins can be taken away only by those who have the… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Epistles* (on point 6) “Or if they say that the power of baptism comes from the greatness of the name, so that those who are baptized anywhere and in any way, in the name… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 10–14*

10 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) **Quote 11, page 5** “that imposition of hands shall be to him instead of baptism: for by the laying on of our hands the Holy Ghost was given to believers… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) **Quote 3, page 2** “have no part in this matter, nor lot in this faith… [continues online] **read ›**

12 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) “after that, let the bishop anoint those that are baptized with ointment… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Apostolic Constitutions* the person with the holy oil, and afterward baptize him with water, and at the end you shall seal him with the ointment. In this way, the anointing with oil… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) **Quote 7, page 3** “5:4 For such sacred offices are conferred by the laying on of the hands of the bishop… [continues online] **read ›**

Anonymous · *sources 15–18*

15 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 **Quote 8, page 4** “my brother? If a man is not baptized by a bishop in such a way as to receive the laying on of hands at once, and yet dies before receiving… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 9, page 4** “whether, indeed, a repetition of baptism would be necessary for them, as if they should receive nothing if they had not obtained baptism afresh, just as if they were never… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 (on point 3) “Although they were already righteous and, as we have said, had been baptized with the Lord's baptism, just as the apostles themselves had been, yet on the night when… [continues online] **read ›**

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18 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 6, page 3** "when by imposition of the bishop's hands the Holy Spirit is given to every one that believes, as in the case of the Samaritans, after Philip's baptism, the… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *111 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

19 **Genesis 48:14** But Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, crossing his hands. **read ›**

20 **Exodus 29:7** You shall take some of the anointing oil, pour it on his head, and anoint him. **read ›**

21 **Exodus 29:10** You shall bring the calf to the doors of the tabernacle of witness, and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on the head of the calf before the Lord, by the doors of the tabernacle of witness. **read ›**

22 **Exodus 29:19** You shall take the second ram, and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on the head of the ram. **read ›**

23 **Leviticus 1:4** He shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, that it may be acceptable for him, to make atonement for him. **read ›**

24 **Leviticus 4:15** The elders of the congregation shall lay their hands on the head of the calf before the Lord, and they shall slaughter the calf before the Lord. **read ›**

25 **Leviticus 9:22** Then Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and blessed them; and he came down after offering the sin offering, the whole burnt offerings, and the peace offerings. **read ›**

26 **Leviticus 13:54** the priest shall give orders, and one shall wash the thing on which the plague is, and the priest shall set the plague apart seven days a second time. **read ›**

27 **Leviticus 14:14** The priest shall take some of the blood of the guilt offering, and the priest shall put it on the lobe of the right ear of the one being cleansed, on the tip of his right hand, and on the tip of his right foot. **read ›**

28 **Leviticus 14:15** Then the priest shall take some of the cup of oil and pour it into the priest's own left hand. **read ›**

29 **Leviticus 14:17** The priest shall put the rest of the oil that is in his hand on the lobe of the right ear of the one being cleansed, on the tip of his right hand, and on the tip of his right foot, on the place of the blood of the guilt offering. **read ›**

30 **Leviticus 14:18** The priest shall put the rest of the oil that is on his hand on the head of the one who is cleansed; and the priest shall make atonement for him before the Lord. **read ›**

31 **Leviticus 14:26** The priest shall pour some of the oil into the priest's own left hand, **read ›**

32 **Leviticus 14:27** and with his right finger the priest shall sprinkle some of the oil that is in his left hand seven times before the Lord. **read ›**

33 **Leviticus 14:28** The priest shall put some of the oil that is in his hand on the lobe of the right ear of the one being cleansed, on the tip of his right hand, and on the tip of his right foot, on the place of the blood of the guilt offering. **read ›**

34 **Leviticus 14:29** The rest of the oil that is in the priest's hand he shall put on the head of the one who is cleansed; and the priest shall make atonement for him before the Lord. **read ›**

35 **Leviticus 16:21** Aaron shall lay his hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the lawless deeds of the children of Israel, all their unrighteous acts, and all their sins; he shall put them on the head of the live goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is ready. **read ›**

36 **Leviticus 16:32** The priest whom they anoint, and whose hands they consecrate to serve as priest after his father, shall make atonement; he shall put on the linen garment, the holy garment. **read ›**

37 **Numbers 8:10** And you shall bring the Levites before the Lord, and the children of Israel shall lay their hands on the Levites. **read ›**

38 **Numbers 11:25** Then the Lord came down in a cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was upon him and put it upon the seventy men, the elders; and when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, but did not do so again. **read ›**

39 **Numbers 27:18** The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Take to yourself Jesus the son of Nun, a man who has the Spirit in him, and lay your hands on him. **read ›**

40 **Numbers 27:23** and he laid his hands on him and appointed him, just as the Lord had commanded Moses. **read ›**

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41 **Numbers 31:23** everything that passes through fire shall be clean; yet it shall be purified with the water of purification. And whatever does not pass through fire shall pass through water. **read ›**

42 **Deuteronomy 33:3** And he spared his people, and all the sanctified ones are under your hands; and these are under you; and he received of his words **read ›**

43 **Deuteronomy 34:9** Jesus the son of Nun was filled with the spirit of understanding, for Moses had laid his hands on him; and the children of Israel listened to him and did as the Lord had commanded Moses. **read ›**

44 **1 Samuel 10:6** Then the Spirit of the Lord will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. **read ›**

45 **1 Samuel 16:13** Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day onward. And Samuel arose and went away to Ramathaim. **read ›**

46 **1 Kings 17:21** And he breathed on the child three times and called on the Lord and said, “O Lord my God, please let the soul of this child return to him.” **read ›**

47 **2 Kings 4:34** And he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, and his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he bent himself over him, and the flesh of the child became warm. **read ›**

48 **2 Kings 13:16** And he said to the king, “Put your hand on the bow.” And Joash put his hand on it; and Elisha put his hands on the king’s hands, **read ›**

49 **1 Chronicles 16:17** He established it for Jacob as a statute, for Israel as an everlasting covenant, **read ›**

50 **Proverbs 11:27** He who devises good things seeks good favor, but evil will overtake him who seeks it. **read ›**

51 **Proverbs 14:19** The evil will fall before the good, and the ungodly will wait at the doors of the righteous. **read ›**

52 **Ecclesiastes 2:16** For there is no remembrance of the wise man together with the fool forever, since already in the days that are coming all things are forgotten. And how will the wise man die together with the fool? **read ›**

53 **Ecclesiastes 3:20** All go to one place; all came from the dust, and all will return to the dust. **read ›**

54 **Ecclesiastes 4:9** Two are better than one, for they have a good reward in their labor. **read ›**

55 **Song of Solomon 7:13** The mandrakes have given a fragrance, and at our doors are all choice fruits, new and old; my kinsman, I have kept them for you. (Septuagint Song of Solomon 7:14 (Song of Solomon 7:13 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

56 **Isaiah 15:3** Wrap yourselves in sackcloth in her squares, and lament on her rooftops and in her lanes; all of you, wail with weeping. **read ›**

57 **Lamentations 1:3** Gimel. Judea has been carried away because of her humiliation and because of the greatness of her slavery; she dwells among the nations, she has found no rest; all her pursuers have overtaken her in the midst of her oppressors. **read ›**

58 **Amos 1:5** And I will break the bars of Damascus, and utterly destroy the inhabitants from the plain of On, and cut off a tribe from the men of Haran; and the select people of Syria shall be taken captive, says the Lord. **read ›**

59 **Habakkuk 3:1** A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, with a song. **read ›**

60 **Habakkuk 3:2** O Lord, I have heard your report, and I was afraid; I considered your works, and I was amazed. In the midst of two living creatures you will be known; as the years draw near you will be recognized; when the time has come you will be shown forth; when my soul is troubled, in anger you will remember mercy. **read ›**

61 **1 Esdras 9:38** And the whole multitude gathered together in the open square before the gate of the temple toward the east, **read ›**

62 **1 Esdras 9:47** All the multitude answered, “Amen”; and lifting up their hands they fell to the ground and worshiped the Lord. **read ›**

63 **Wisdom of Solomon 1:5** For the holy Spirit of discipline will flee from deceit, and will withdraw from foolish thoughts, and will be rebuked when unrighteousness comes in. **read ›**

64 **Wisdom of Solomon 9:17** Who has known your counsel, unless you gave wisdom and sent your holy Spirit from on high? **read ›**

65 **Wisdom of Solomon 18:6** That night was made known beforehand to our fathers, so that, knowing surely the oaths in which they had believed, they might take heart. **read ›**

66 **Wisdom of Sirach 50:20** Then he came down and lifted up his hands over the whole assembly of the children of Israel, to give blessing to the Lord with his lips, and to glory in his name. **read ›**

67 **Susanna 1:34** And the two elders stood up in the midst of the people and laid their hands on her head. **read ›**

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68 **1 Maccabees 11:27** He confirmed him in the high priesthood and in all the other honors he had held before, and had him counted among his first friends. **read ›**

69 **1 Maccabees 14:19** And these were read before the assembly in Jerusalem. **read ›**

70 **1 Maccabees 14:38** And King Demetrius confirmed him in the high priesthood accordingly, **read ›**

71 **2 Maccabees 2:16** Since, then, we are about to celebrate the purification, we have written to you; you will do well, therefore, to keep the days. **read ›**

72 **2 Maccabees 3:20** And all of them, stretching out their hands toward heaven, made their plea. **read ›**

73 **2 Maccabees 4:9** In addition to this he promised to pay another one hundred and fifty, if permission were given him by the king's authority to set up a gymnasium and a body of youths for it, and to enroll the people of Jerusalem as citizens of Antioch. **read ›**

74 **2 Maccabees 8:29** When they had done this, they made a common plea and begged the merciful Lord to be fully reconciled with his slaves. **read ›**

75 **2 Maccabees 13:12** When they had all done this together and had pleaded with the merciful Lord with weeping and fasting and lying facedown for three days without ceasing, Judas encouraged them and ordered them to stand ready. **read ›**

76 **2 Maccabees 14:36** So now, O holy Lord of all holiness, keep undefiled forever this house that has so recently been purified." **read ›**

77 **3 Maccabees 7:13** Then their priests, as was fitting, acclaimed him, and all the multitude shouted the Alleluia, and they departed with joy. **read ›**

78 **4 Maccabees 15:3** loved more the godliness that saves to eternal life according to God. **read ›**

79 **1 Enoch 1:3** Concerning the chosen ones I now speak, and concerning them I took up my parable. My Holy Great One shall come forth from his dwelling, **read ›**

80 **1 Enoch 40:8** After that I asked the angel of peace who went with me, who showed me everything that is hidden, "Who are these four presences which I have seen and whose words I have heard and written down?" **read ›**

81 **1 Enoch 49:3** And in him dwells the spirit of wisdom, and the spirit which gives insight, and the spirit of understanding and of might, and the spirit of those who have fallen asleep in righteousness. **read ›**

82 **1 Enoch 53:6** And after this the Righteous and Elect One shall cause the house of his congregation to appear; from then on they shall no longer be hindered in the name of the Lord of Spirits. **read ›**

83 **1 Enoch 59:2** And there I saw the secrets of the thunder, and how, when it resounds above in heaven, its sound is heard; and he caused me to see the judgments executed on the earth, whether they are for well-being and blessing, or for a curse, according to the word of the Lord of Spirits. **read ›**

84 **1 Enoch 60:15** For when the lightning flashes, the thunder utters its voice, and the spirit enforces a pause during the peal, and divides equally between them; for the treasury of their peals is like the sand, and each one of them as it peals is held in with a bridle, and turned back by the power of the spirit, and pushed forward according to the many quarters of the earth. **read ›**

85 **1 Enoch 60:18** And the spirit of the snow has forsaken his chamber on account of his strength. There is a special spirit in it, and what ascends from it is like smoke, and its name is frost. **read ›**

86 **1 Enoch 62:2** And the Lord of Spirits seated him on the throne of his glory, and the spirit of righteousness was poured out on him, and the word of his mouth slays all the sinners, and all the unrighteous are destroyed from before his face. **read ›**

87 **1 Enoch 67:11** And those same waters shall undergo a change in those days; for when those angels are punished in these waters, these springs shall change their temperature, and when the angels ascend, this water of the springs shall change and become cold. **read ›**

88 **1 Enoch 69:10** For men were not created for such a purpose, to give confirmation to their good faith with pen and ink. **read ›**

89 **1 Enoch 71:6** And my spirit saw the band which encircled that house of fire, and on its four sides were streams full of living fire, and they encircled that house. **read ›**

90 **1 Enoch 106:3** And he rose up from the hands of the midwife, and opened his mouth, and blessed the Lord. **read ›**

91 **1 Enoch 106:11** and he rose up from the hands of the midwife, and opening his mouth, he blessed the eternal Lord. **read ›**

92 **Matthew 3:6** They were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. **read ›**

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93 **Matthew 3:11** I indeed baptize you in water for repentance, but he who comes after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit. **read ›**

94 **Matthew 3:16** Jesus, when he was baptized, went up directly from the water: and behold, the heavens were opened to him. He saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming on him. **read ›**

95 **Matthew 19:15** He laid his hands on them, and departed from there. **read ›**

96 **Mark 1:5** All the country of Judea and the people of Jerusalem went out to him, and they were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. **read ›**

97 **Mark 1:8** I baptized you in water, but he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit." **read ›**

98 **Mark 1:10** Immediately coming up from the water, he saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. **read ›**

99 **Mark 10:16** He took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them. **read ›**

100 **Luke 3:16** John answered them all, "I indeed baptize you with water, but he comes who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to loosen. He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire. **read ›**

101 **John 1:33** I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'The one on whom you see the Spirit coming down and remaining, he is the one who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.' **read ›**

102 **John 7:39** But he said this about the Spirit, which those believing in him were to receive. For the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. **read ›**

103 **Acts 1:5** for John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized in the Holy Spirit not many days from now." **read ›**

104 **Acts 2:41** Then those who gladly received his word were baptized. There were added that day about three thousand souls. **read ›**

105 **Acts 6:6** whom they set before the apostles. When they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. **read ›**

106 **Acts 8:12** But when they believed Philip as he preached the gospel concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. **read ›**

107 **Acts 8:15** who, when they had come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit; **read ›**

108 **Acts 8:16** for as yet he had fallen on none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of Christ Jesus. **read ›**

109 **Acts 8:17** Then they laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. **read ›**

110 **Acts 8:19** saying, "Give me this authority too, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." **read ›**

111 **Acts 8:39** When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away. The eunuch saw him no more, for he went on his way rejoicing. **read ›**

112 **Acts 10:47** "Can anyone withhold the water, so that these people who received the Holy Spirit just as we did should not be baptized?" **read ›**

113 **Acts 10:48** He commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay for some days. **read ›**

114 **Acts 11:2** When Peter had come up to Jerusalem, those who were of the circumcision contended with him, **read ›**

115 **Acts 11:16** I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized in the Holy Spirit.' **read ›**

116 **Acts 13:3** Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. **read ›**

117 **Acts 14:23** They appointed elders for them in every church and, after prayer with fasting, commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed. **read ›**

118 **Acts 19:3** He said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." **read ›**

119 **Acts 19:4** Paul said, "John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Christ Jesus." **read ›**

120 **Acts 19:5** When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **read ›**

121 **Acts 19:6** When Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. **read ›**

122 **2 Corinthians 1:22** who also sealed us and gave us the pledge of the Spirit in our hearts. **read ›**

123 **Ephesians 1:13** In him you also, having heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and having believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, **read ›**

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124 **Ephesians 2:2** in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the children of disobedience. **read ›**

125 **Ephesians 3:12** In him we have boldness and access with confidence through his faithfulness. **read ›**

126 **Ephesians 3:14** For this cause, I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **read ›**

127 **Ephesians 4:30** Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **read ›**

128 **1 Timothy 4:14** Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the elders. **read ›**

129 **Hebrews 6:2** of the teaching of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *36 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Psalms 33:6

Matthew 3:3 · 10:16 · 12:32 · 18:16 · 18:20 · 28:19

Mark 3:28 · 14:27

Luke 1:35 · 1:76 · 3:22 · 12:10 · 15:21

John 3:3 · 20:22

Acts 1:8 · 4:12 · 8:14 · 8:18 · 8:20 · 8:24 · 12:15

Romans 15:16

1 Corinthians 1:10 · 12:3 · 12:4 · 12:11

2 Corinthians 13:1

Ephesians 2:10

1 Timothy 2:8 · 4:12 · 5:3

Hebrews 5:1 · 5:4 · 10:26

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Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What did the early Christians believe about laying on of hands after baptism?” on May 21, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY