

RIVERBANK NEWS

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LAY HANDS SUDDENLY ON NO MAN

By Gordon F. Nelson

"Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partakers of other men's sins: keep thyself pure (Gk.-set aside, innocent)." 1 Tim. 5:22.

This is not only good counsel for the church's elders, but also to fathers and mothers in providing instruction for their son or daughter. One needs to establish a friendship; exploring the things two people have in common, before being lovers. As in the spiritual, so in the natural.

"Neither be partaker's of other men's sins." The laying on of hands is not to be taken lightly. It is the method God chose to transmit "blessings," evidently inaugurated by Abraham, and carried into fruition through Isaac and Jacob. *"And I will make of thee a great nation...and thou (Abraham) shalt be a blessing."* Gen. 12:2.

For an apostle to have laid his hands on Judas' head, after he had taken the sop, would have invited the sins of Judas to enter into himself. *"Neither be partaker of other men's sins,"* through the act of laying on of hands. 1 Tim. 5:22. *"And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom THOU KNOWEST to be the elders of the people (God is about to do a new thing of transmitting the Spirit that rests upon Moses to these seventy elders)...And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I WILL TAKE of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone."* Nu. 11:16-17.

"And the LORD came down in a cloud, and spake unto him (Moses), and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease....And there ran a young man, and told Moses (about two of these elders), and said, Eldad and Medad do prophesy in the camp." This young man's name was Joshua, the son of Nun, and implored Moses, *"My lord Moses, forbid them (This is wild fire. His pleas were ineffective, apparently because Moses believed wild fire was better than no fire at all!). And Moses said unto him, Enviest thou for my sake? would God that all the LORD'S people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit upon them!"* Nu. 11:25,27-29.

This is really the basis of why we lay hands in ordination services. It has a tremendous tradition behind it, dating back to this great occasion of transmitting the spirit that rested upon Moses to the seventy.

If man becomes involved, over a distance termed “time”, these same elders that once prophesied in the Spirit, became the “life and death” judges over Israel. This tribunal, later termed the Sanhedrin Court, would condemn Jesus to a Roman cross for blasphemy.

All of these men, A.A. Allen, Oral Roberts, Morris Cerullo, O.L. Jagers, were like the seventy elders with a fresh anointing from God, but the element of time changes the heart from the spiritual to the carnal element we all learn to love; the root of all evil—money. The love of it absolutely corrupts!

I have born the burden, personally, for the financial success of *RIVERBANK NEWS* for over four years. We’ve gathered quite a family during that period of time that anticipate the luxury of reading each month’s issue. Our policy will always be, “*Freely ye have received, freely give!*” Matt. 10:8. This is no plea for money, but an exercise of my faith for this *RBN* to continue on the basis of transferring the responsibility to others.

It took four years for Cpt. Randy B. to feel the same burden that I feel toward the continuance of *RBN*. You’re actually witnessing a new regeneration of being a recipient of a like spirit that rests on me, in the person of Randolph B. I’m praising God that He has finally transmitted to another all that I feel in the spirit realm. He has grown into maturity as a result of reading the *RIVERBANK NEWS*.

One young man’s testimony was, “All I ever learned from you was to ‘take off the cap,’ and now this ‘government’ thing you discuss.” He meant by “taking off the cap,” my use of an illustration for “punching a time clock.” I challenged him to become an entrepreneur, and he rejoices over that one nugget.

Some of our readers come to sit and just learn. Others, like Martha, have read so many books, they are “*cumbered about*” through the teachings of E.W. Kenyon and TV artists like Kenneth and Gloria Copeland. Who was I to teach them anything! “Art thou greater than E.W. Kenyon, that we should glean anything from you?” You cannot teach another man’s disciple anything. Jesus had his disciples, and John the Baptist had his. John the Baptist lost two of his disciples, Peter and Andrew, after John declared, “*Behold, the Lamb of God!*” Jn. 1:35-42. Another man’s disciple has his ears plugged. These disciples of E.W. Kenyon apparently are so filled with their own dogma, they cannot hear the plain message of *RBN*. I doubt if Martha even heard one word of the Master’s teaching in her home at Bethany. She was too “encumbered” with the work she had to do! Religion always gets you so busy “doing,” you miss hearing the message of the Master that gives life.

Young men have a problem with Hebrews 13:17, “*Obey them that have the rule over you, and SUBMIT YOURSELVES: for they watch over your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not for grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*” Whenever a young man has been chosen to be a Commander aboard the Ol’ Ship of Zion, he is in training automatically that, hopefully,

one day he will mature to the rank of Captain. However, a “Martha Commander” is not here to learn anything! He or she is on board to preach “superior revelation,” to which the Captain needs instruction! There’ll be other Commanders, and I’m saying this for their benefit. If you’ve arrived full circle, God bless you! The disciples stumbled upon such a man, “*Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us.*” Mk. 9:38. He may have been a Captain of another ship recruiting his own disciples. Who knows? A disciple is a learner! But, these Kenyonite disciples want you to submit to E.W. Kenyon’s teaching to have peace! They never quit!

Do you know a war broke out in heaven? Read about it in Revelation 12:7-13. You say, “If they have war in heaven, I don’t want to go there!” When Michael finished kicking the devil out of heaven, there has been peace ever since. A false doctrine must be like a piece of sand that gets into your eye. It continually irritates! Anyone that tells me Jesus’ blood is tainted, irritates me! We, as a ship, are not going to put up with it any longer!

Jesus told Peter, “*I will build my church.*” “*Thou art Peter (Petros, a piece of a rock), and upon this rock (Gk.-petra [mass of] rock) I will build my church.*” Matt. 16:18. Catholicism stands or falls on the correct interpretation of this one verse of scripture. Strangely, the Catholics come closer to the correct interpretation than the Protestants. The Protestant declaration is that the “petra” refers to Jesus Christ. The Catholic interpretation is that the “petra” refers to Peter. The correct interpretation! I know this drives my E.W. Kenyon friends right up the wall! How can he tell us the correct interpretation, when the theologians of all times have been arguing this since time immortal.

The answer is simple. Christ was referring to his organization of twelve men. This was the Petra of scripture. He was soon leaving the earth, and his only hope to carry on the gospel was this small band (a brotherhood)—the Petra. Peter was simply one of the pieces of that Petra.

The Lord’s prayer is the 17th chapter of John. In it Jesus prays for this small brotherhood that is the only hope of the world; the Petra. “*I pray for them: I pray not for the world.*” Jn. 17:9. If the Petra fails, there is no other hope for mankind. In this entire Lord’s prayer, Jesus never included the man “*the disciples found casting out devils*” as a loner. Mk. 9:38.

Peter was the leader of twelve pieces of rock, that collectively were the Petra, forming a brotherhood. This is the method that Jesus chose when He boldly proclaimed, “*I will build my church.*” He set the example of choosing twelve men. The Jews to this day, cannot even call a prayer meeting without the presence of ten men, termed a minyan. God is not in any “Lone Ranger” program.

E.W. Kenyon was just another “Lone Ranger” with the mysticism of New Thought, “mind over matter,” and positive confession theology. These guys are, in reality, Christian Science practitioners!

There is always a “fee” when a practitioner prays for you! James S. prayed for me over the telephone, immediately after downing two beers, according to his testimony. God healed me of asthma, snoring, and sleep apnea. I had a machine to induce sleep, and all kinds of plastic inhalers for my asthma. God miraculously healed me right over the phone.

A while later, God spoke to me and told me to send Jim \$1,000. “Mine is not to question why; just to do and die.” The relief wrought by that one prayer was well worth \$1,000 to me. It was received as a manner of debt I owed. This is what totally amazed me on my last visit to San Diego. How many times in a lifetime does somebody send you \$1,000 in the mail? Do you think you’d send a thank you card? or invite such a one to a cup of tea when they hit town? But listen to me, the point I’m trying to drive home is that when you visit your doctor, and he prescribes a certain drug that completely heals you. Do you phone the doctor to say, “Thanks”?

This is “rhema healing”; whatsoever “he saith,” he receives. Mk. 11:23. Virtually, he is in command for your healing. Because it works, makes it even more frightening! With this sort of healing, a young lady who didn’t have the wherewithal to possess \$1,000, could offer sex. If you’re a convert to E.W. Kenyon’s “unconditional eternal security,” why not?

“Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the HEARING OF FAITH?” Gal. 3:2. There is a difference between “hearing faith” and “rhema faith.” I wanted you to know that! Rhema faith has as it’s ultimate, “Ye are as gods!” Gen. 3:5.

“Working the Word” Theology
Excerpts from E.W. Kenyon and converts

“Heaven has a north and a south and an east and a west. Consequently, it must be a planet.” *Kenneth Copeland*

“God filled His words with faith to cause things He said to come into manifestation. There was an IMAGE inside Him. He expressed it in words.” *Charles Capp*

“Faith is a power force. It is a tangible force. It is a conductive force.” *Kenneth Copeland*

“Faith is the substance, the raw material...Faith is the substance that God used to create the universe, and He transported that faith with His words...Faith is the substance of things, but you can’t see faith. Faith is a spiritual force.” *Charles Capp*

“You don’t think earth was first, do you? Huh? Well, you don’t think God made man in His image, and then made earth in some other image? This is all a copy. It’s a copy of home. It’s a copy of the mother planet. Where God lives. He made a little one just like His and put us on it.” *Kenneth Copeland*

“God is a being that stands somewhere around 6’2” or 6’3”, that weighs somewhere in the neighborhood of a couple of hundred pounds, little better, and has a hand span of 9” across. Isa. 40:12.” *Kenneth Copeland*

“God can’t do anything in this earth realm except what we, the body of Christ, allow Him to do.” *Frederick K.C. Price*

“The Bible says that He has left us an example that we should follow His steps. That’s the reason why I drive a Rolls Royce. I’m following Jesus’ steps.” *Frederick K.C. Price*

Dear RBN reader: Isn’t it so much simpler to merely believe, “my sheep know my voice.” The mouthers seem to not comprehend the simplicity of a faith that rests even in a child.