

Elders - What are they? God designed elders to serve as the leadership structure of the local church

- Tit 1:5 ESV This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might ***put what remained into order***, and **appoint elders in every town** as I directed you-- [NIV *put in order what was left unfinished*]
 - **Appoint** - to place down (permanently), that is, (figuratively) to designate, (appoint, ordain, set)
- Act 14:21-23 ESV When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch.....23 And when they had **appointed** [KJV *ordained*] **elders for them in every church**, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.
 - **Appointed** (to stretch out the hand); - to select or appoint, choose, ordain

Elders - What do they do?

An elder is a steward of GOD'S CHURCH, called by the Holy Spirit to watch over His flock

- Act 20:28 ESV **Pay careful attention** to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the **Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care** [poimaino] for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

An elder seeks to know the condition of the flock

- Pro 27:23 ESV Know well the **condition of your flocks**, and **give attention** to your herds,

An elder leads with God's heart

- Jer 3:15 ESV "And I will give you **shepherds after my own heart**, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.

He leads with integrity and skill

- Psa 78:72 KJV [God took David from the sheepfold to lead his people] So he fed them according to the ***integrity of his heart***; and guided them by the ***skilfulness of his hands***.

How are they chosen? ***By the Holy Spirit, and by the man's personal desire***

- Act 20:28 ESV Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which **the Holy Spirit has made** [***appoint-ordain***] you overseers, **to care** for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.
- 1Ti 3:1 ESV The saying is trustworthy: **If anyone aspires** to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.

How Are They Chosen? ***(mostly character qualities, and a couple skills)***

1Ti 3:1-7 ESV The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. 2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, **able to teach**, 3 not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not **know how to manage his own household**, how will he care for God's church? 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

There is The Laying on of Hands

For Blessing, for healing, for receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and for ordination

- Mar 10:16 ESV And he took them in his arms **and blessed them, laying his hands on them.**

For Healing

- **Jesus** Luk 4:40 [Jesus] **he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them.**
- **Jesus** Luk 13:12 [Jesus] **he laid his hands on her, and immediately she was made straight**
- **Church** Act 9:12 [Ananias] **lay his hands on him [Paul] so that he might regain his sight.**
- **Church** Act 28:8 [Paul] **putting his hands on him [Publius] healed him.**
- **Church** Mar 16:16-18 ESV **Whoever believes will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."**

For Baptism in the Holy Spirit

- Act 19:6 ESV [Paul] **laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.**
- Act 8:17 ESV Then they [*Peter & John*] **laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.**

For ordaining into ministry (a gift from God acknowledged by the body of elders)

- 1Ti 4:14 ESV Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy **when the council of elders laid their hands on you.**
- 2Ti 1:6 ESV For this reason I remind you to fan into flame **the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands,**

A great example of what happens when someone is ordained

- Act 13:1-4 ESV Now there were in the church at Antioch ***prophets and teachers***, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "**Set apart** for me Barnabas and Saul for **the work to which I have called them.**" 3 Then after fasting and praying **they laid their hands** on them and **sent them off.** 4 So, being **sent out by the Holy Spirit**, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.
- Act 14:14 ESV But when the ***apostles*** Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out,

Hands were laid on them to

1. **Recognize** the Holy Spirit's call (*the Holy Spirit said set apart for the work to which I have called*)
2. **Confirm & Acknowledge** after fasting and prayer, they laid hands on them
3. **Release them to function in this new role** - give them authority (**sent them off** = released them)
4. **Spirit now leads** - so being sent out by the Holy Spirit
5. **There was a divine Impartation** - there was an impartation of grace and apostleship that comes from God (14:14)