

And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear sound, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle? 1st Corinthians 14:8 NLV

First Love Ministries, Inc.

PRAYER STUDY #143

ORDINATION

1st Timothy 4:14

Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

First Love Ministries has been meeting weekly since 1979. During that time we have probably sent out 30 to 40 people in ministry. We have, however, only ordained a handful of people. These are people that we believe the Lord wants to separate for His Service. We also believe that each one of these individuals will, in some way, touch nations. Normally we ordain people only if they are either in full time ministry or have had some special training to minister. We are reluctant to ordain anyone that the Lord does not tell specifically to ordain. I can say without reservation that I feel good about everyone whom we have ordained and sent out.

There is little in scripture about ordination. Although Jesus Himself prayed all night before selecting His disciples, there is no record that He ordained them. When Matthias replaced Judas, there is also no suggestion that he was ordained when he took the position.

We know most of what we know about ordination from Paul in his writings to his spiritual son Timothy. In 1st Timothy 4:14 we learn that Timothy received a gift from the Lord which was given by prophecy when the elders laid hands on him. This verse reads in the New Century Version: *Use the gift you have, which was given to you through prophecy when the group of elders laid their hands on you.* The Contemporary English Version says, *“Use the gift you were given when the prophets spoke and the group of church leaders blessed you by placing their hands on you.* The Message paraphrases the verse: *And that special gift of ministry you were given when the leaders of the church laid hands on you and prayed-keep that dusted off and in use.*

Again, we learn three essential points from this one verse of scripture. First, ordination imparts a spiritual gift. Secondly, the gift comes prophetically. Thirdly, this gift comes through the laying on of hands by the elders.

Later when Paul warns Timothy in 1st Timothy 5:22, he says, *“Lay hands on no man suddenly”* or *“Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands.”* Paul is not referring to the laying hands on the sick or ministering to individuals

by the laying on of hands, but he is referring to ordination. That is not to say, however, that we should use great wisdom in who we lay hands on and who lays hands on us, as we have know people who picked up demonic spirits transferred from one individual to another, and often this transference is so non-spectacular that we don't even recognize that it has taken place.

Through granting ordination to the Christian ministry, a local body of believers publically commends the ordinand to the church at large, saying that that person has earned their confidence and enjoys their endorsement as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We prayerfully consider the ministry of those we ordain and endorse them publically as ministers of the Gospel. To publically solidify this status of one who is ordained, we ask the candidate the following questions:

- 1. Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, and that the scriptures are the inerrant, Holy Spirit inspired Word of God?*
- 2. Do you believe that there is ONLY ONE WAY to salvation and that is through Jesus Christ?*
- 3. Have you prayerfully considered the responsibility of living and preaching the Gospel and have you weighed the work involved and the sacrifices you may be called upon to make?*
- 4. Are you motivated, not out of a desire for position or earthly gain, but by the love of God and of your fellowmen and the wish to glorify Jesus and introduce others to Him?*
- 5. Will you endeavor to live a life of love within your earthly family and spiritual family and before the lost, and so draw others to Christ through your example as well as by your word?*

You have declared your purpose to give your life in the service of Jesus Christ, and you have received the approval of First Love Ministries. In order that you may be formally set apart for this holy calling, will you now kneel and receive the laying on of hands as we ask the blessing of God upon your ministry.

We ask for all ordained ministers and the leadership of First Love Ministries to lay hands on the candidate and to pray giving any prophetic words given by the Lord.