

# Article of Faith 5

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We believe that a man must be called of God, by prophecy, and by the laying on of hands by those who are in authority, to preach the Gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof.

There are so many religions out there in the world. New ones popping up every day because someone isn't pleased with the way their current leader is running things. Just because you don't agree with what someone preaches doesn't mean you can start up your own religion. That's just not how things are done. You aren't better than the leaders of the church, whatever that church is. They're in position of authority for a reason. They have a purpose.

I'm not saying everyone in a religious position has authority. There's probably some sort of way of discerning who has real authority from God and who doesn't. The LDS Church claims they are the only ones on Earth who have the authority to act in God's name and perform the life saving ordinances to get into heaven. That is a pretty bold claim to have and stand by.

And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:<sup>1</sup>

Jesus breathed on his disciples and told them to receive the Holy Ghost. He breathed on them because he was standing behind them with his hands on their heads as that is the only way a person can receive the Holy Ghost. By the laying on of hands. People get this confused a lot. They believe just by wanting something, a gift, a power, etc. They can have it. I'm sure their hearts are in the right place, but that doesn't mean it'll happen because they will it.

This was a big question I had on my mission. Why can't people baptize others if their intentions are genuine? Can't they just do it and be good? Yeah I still have concerns about that question in my mind from time to time. I believe if you are in a good place with God, you should be able to act miracles in His name. Aren't we all children of God? Shouldn't we all have that same access to His blessings? Some would disagree with me for that thinking and tell me I am out of line. But thinking that way doesn't make me want to run off and create my own religion around it. I don't want to lead other people away from the religion they are in. That would be wrong.

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<sup>1</sup>John 20:22 (KJV)