

Definition and Purpose of the Priesthood

"The priesthood is the eternal power and authority of God. Through the priesthood He created and governs the heavens and earth. Through this power He redeems and exalts His children, bringing 'to pass the immortality and eternal life of man' (Moses 1:39) "

(Church Handbook of Instructions pg 161)

Priesthood Authority given to Man

"God gives priesthood authority to worthy male members of the Church so they can act in His name for the salvation of the human family."

(Church Handbook of Instructions pg 161)

Priesthood Principles for Administering to the sick

- "The priesthood can not be used contrary to the will of Him whose priesthood it is" Elder Dallin H Oaks (Training meeting 11/1/2008)
 - o Helaman 10:5
- D&C 121 "the powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled only upon the principles of righteousness"
- Priesthood blessings such as healing occur according to our faith and the will of God

Why isn't everyone healed even when the requisite faith is there?

Spencer W Kimball

If all the sick for whom we pray were healed, if all the righteous were protected and the wicked destroyed, the whole program of the Father would be annulled and the basic principle of the gospel, free agency, would be ended. No man would have to live by faith....

The power of the priesthood is limitless but God has wisely placed upon each of us certain limitations. I may develop priesthood power as I perfect my life, yet I am grateful that even through the priesthood I cannot heal all the sick. I might heal people who should die. I might relieve people of suffering who should suffer. I fear I would frustrate the purposes of God. (Faith Proceeds the Miracle, pg 97,99)

Sealing and Anointing (pg 172-3 Handbook of Instructions)

- Anointing by a Melchizedek Priesthood holder
- Sealing *normally* by 2 MP holders
- One person may do alone "if necessary"
- All things done by the Authority and not the "power" of the Melchizedek Priesthood
- "Gives a priesthood blessing as the Spirit directs"

Elder Oaks

"Anointing and Sealing are essential"

"Blessing is not essential. If we refrain from stating the blessing it doesn't mean it won't happen"

"Anointing and Sealing open the windows of Heaven to the blessings"

"We don't anoint over and over again" (It goes back to the principle of the principle of the anointing and sealing opening the windows of Heaven to the blessings.)

(Training meeting 11/1/2008)

These principles and their application should be of comfort

- Those who receive blessings are concerned because “it wasn’t said” need not be concerned
- Those giving the blessings worried about what to say against expectations. “Do your best and leave it up to the Lord”

- When someone is unworthy to exercise his priesthood yet does perform an ordinance does it invalidate the ordinance?
 - o No. The ordinance is still valid for those receiving the ordinance.
 - o However the person who is unworthy to perform the ordinance yet does violates the sanctity of the ordinance and will be accountable for his actions to God.

References

- PRESIDENT KIMBALL SPEAKS OUT ON ADMINISTRATION TO THE SICK. Spencer W. Kimball, President Kimball Speaks Out [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1981], 76 - 77.)
- Tragedy or Destiny? Faith Precedes the Miracle, Spencer W Kimball, pg 95-106