

Q) Is it scriptural to have prayer cloths?

The scriptural precedent is in:

Acts 19:11-12 Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.

A prayer cloth is a piece of material someone or a group prays over and delivers to a sick person for the purpose of attaining their healing. Paul's "handkerchiefs and aprons" are rags tied around his head to catch sweat and his work aprons tied around his waist. Magicians often healed by such means;

This practice is not the usual method of healing. The standard method for healing is:

1. Laying on of hands

Mark 16:18 Believers, " ... will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

2. Anointing of Oil and Prayer of Faith

James 5:14-16 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

The oil itself does not heal anyone. It is considered a point of contact for the power of God to flow through. Oil is a type of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 9:20-22 And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment.

21 For she said to herself, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well."

22 But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that hour.

In this instance the woman touched Jesus garment. The garment itself healed no one, but it was a point of contact for the woman faith and Jesus healing power

Jesus rubbed mud in one man's eye in order for Him to receive His healing

John 9:14-15 Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.

15 Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."

The Book of Acts provide another example of extra ordinary healing methods.

Acts 5:15 so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.

The healing anointing is tangible

Luke 8:45-46 And Jesus said, "Who touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, `Who touched Me?' " But Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me."

Point of contact:

Hands, Oil, mud, shadow or cloth could provide a point of contact for the power of God to flow into another's body.

In the Old Testament the prophet told an unbelieving leper to dip in the Jordon river seven times! This cause Naaman to become angry and he refused. After some prodding he did it.

2 Kings 5:14 So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

The river didn't heal Naman, but his obedience to the word of the Lord did.

Points of Wisdom and balance on prayer clothes:

1. Only use this method if you feel a special leading to do so. Humans have a tendency to experience an unusual supernatural miracle or happening and make a doctrine, liturgy, idol or denomination out of it. Christians don't need good luck charms
2. Any method used must be initiated in faith
3. Avoid putting God in a box and don't despise the method he may choose. When you think you have him figured out He chooses to do it differently