

2. Who was Tertullian ?

An eminent writer, who was born about forty years after the death of St. John.

3. What does he say on the subject ?

After describing baptism, he says, "Then comes the laying on of hands, which by a blessing calls down and invites the Holy Ghost."

4. Who was Cyprian ?

An eminent bishop and martyr, who lived in the generation next to Tertullian.

5. What does Cyprian say on the subject ?

Speaking of the Samaritan converts, he says, "That which was wanting was done by Peter and John ; that is, by prayer for them, and the laying on of hands, the Holy Spirit was called down, and poured upon them."

6. Does he speak of this power as being still in the Church ?

Yes : he goes on to say, " This thing is also done amongst us ; that is, they who are baptized in the Church are presented to the chief pastors, that by our prayer and laying on of hands, they may obtain the Holy Ghost, and be confirmed with the seal of the Lord."

7. What do you observe on this passage ?

Cyprian here states :—

(1.) That those who had been baptized were presented to the chief pastors (*i. e.*, the bishops,) to be confirmed.

(2.) That they were confirmed by prayer and laying on of hands.