

APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION

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I am here today to talk about the need for “Apostolic Succession.”

2 Timothy 2:1-2 *You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.* (NIV)

World 4 Jesus has done entire nationwide events in The Philippines, Ireland, and the Bahamas. Scotland will occur in 2020. W4J is also doing two other types of trips; 1. Advance trips setting up nations and 2. Follow-up trips going back into nations where we have done nationwide events. Advance trips have occurred in Scotland, England, Swaziland, Greece, Cuba, Ghana, Taiwan, and South Africa. And we give God all of the glory for what He has done so far.

On their first missionary journey Paul and Barnabas brought a young man with them by the name of John Mark, who was the cousin of Barnabas (Colossians 4:10), to accompany them. Along the way, however, John Mark decided to return to his home to Jerusalem (Acts 13:13). The reason for his departure is not specified in the scripture.

Later on, when a second campaign was planned, Barnabas proposed taking Mark as a helper, but Paul resisted the idea. The New Testament record indicates that a “sharp contention” developed between them (Acts 15:36-41). They could not reach an agreement, and so they split up.

This is the tension that we wrestle with when bringing up the next generation of revivalists. Many times it's easier for us to just simply do it ourselves rather than risk it with young ambitious upstarts like John Mark.

In November of 2019 Evangelist Michael Livengood did a 'follow-up trip' into Baguio City Philippines to accomplish three main objectives: 1. To build relationships with the pastors of Baguio City. 2. To fan the flames of a move of God in Baguio and beyond. 3. To bring in the next generation of revivalists to experience the endtime move of God for themselves.

I was a part of this team and blessed to be able to travel with Evangelist Livengood and these great men and women of God. I was also afforded the opportunity to bring with me three young men that I consider to be sons in the faith. Associate pastor Jay Edwards from Northview Assembly of God, Evangelist Eric Burton, who also happens to be my natural son, and Evangelist Jordan and Kacy Cunningham, who are evangelist based out of our Northview Church in Columbus Indiana.

While in Baguio, we all ministered in 13 passionate Holy Ghost services in a 10 day period. One of the indelible marks left on me was when young Jordan Cunningham and I were ministering together in one of the early meetings in which Jordan turned to me and said, "*pastor you shouldn't have brought me here.*" And what he meant by that was, I am now forever ruined by this level of passion and demonstration of the Holy Ghost. I knew exactly what he meant by his statement, because I had been to the Philippines on four other occasions and experienced these same feelings.

Each of the men that I brought with me, went to new levels of ministry and greater expectations of faith in just a short ten day period of time. They, as I have, been changed forever by the ministry that we experienced together with the team.

While I respect and appreciate the W4J efforts so far, I am reminded that there are 195 countries in the world. And that we've only scratched the surface on reaching these people groups. In seeing that, we have to wonder if the people in this room will see the fruition of this end time move of God. The truth is, even though Dr James Horvath has the strength and stamina of the Energizer Bunny, he would have to admit that one generation alone will find it hard to do even a fraction of this arduous task.

Though it's risky to trust the next generation it is even more risky to leave them at home while we go off to war.

Leviticus chapter ten records the account of Aaron two sons, Nadab and Abihu. Aaron and his sons were appointed and anointed priests of God. They took care of the altars of God and made the sacrifices to fulfill the atonement for the sins of Israel. One day, Aaron's two sons took it upon themselves to stoke up the fire of God on the altar. Leviticus 10:1-2 *Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. So, fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord.* It wasn't that these two boys had no calling on their lives. They did! Their father was none other than Aaron, the leader of all the priests of Israel. It wasn't that they were not authorized to help out with altar duties that day. They could! So, what was the problem? The problem was that they lit a fire that God had not commanded. They were doing it in the flesh, and out of the timing and the will of God. I believe that if these two young bucks had consulted their daddy or talked to uncle Mo, their lives would have been spared. You see, strange fire is only found in the hands of a generation that refuses to be fathered. Strange fire is the fire that orphans warm their hand by.

If we don't take Joshua with us, another generation will be doomed to sucking sand in the desert. In Hebrew, Abihu's name means "he is my father." Dr Tony Evans once stated, "*We are living in an age where society*

is over mothered and under fathered." Paul the apostle stated in 1 Corinthians 4:15 *"we have many teachers, but not many Fathers"*. And because of this we are reaping Malachis curse. **Malachi 4:6** *And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."*

But I ask you this, which is more dangerous, strange fire or the unseen fire of selfishness? You see, Selfish fire is only found in the hands of a generation that refuses to take their sons and daughters on the journey with them. Let's journey together!