

Spiritual Fathers Must Sire Others to Follow

As we move forward in the Apostolic revelation for the Last Days it is critical that spiritual fathers who are raised up from the movement reproduce themselves so that what has been revealed is not lost. Revelations and revivals in the past have ended up as religion because this did not happen.

A.W. Tozer¹ observed the ‘killing’ of spiritual revelation in his day and poignantly shares it with us in his writings of those times. He wrote:

“Churches and societies founded by saintly men with courage, faith and sanctified imagination appear unable to propagate themselves on the same spiritual level beyond one or two generations.

The spiritual fathers were not able to sire others with courage and faith equal to their own. The fathers had God and little else, but their descendants lose their vision and look to methods and constitutions for the power their hearts tell them they lack. Then rules and precedents harden into a protective shell where they can take refuge from trouble. It is always easier and safer to pull in our necks than to fight things out on the field of battle.

In all our fallen life there is a strong gravitational pull toward complexity and away from things simple and real. There seems to be a kind of sad inevitability back of our morbid urge toward spiritual suicide. Only by prophetic insight, watchful prayer and hard work can we reverse the trend and recover the departed glory.”²

“No succession planning”: This is a simplified summary of Tozer’s quote above.

Moves of the Spirit in the past have ceased, have petered away to nothing. Why? Because those who were invested with it at the start kept it as their own and never raised sons and daughters to follow them, to carry things through. When they died, the move died with them. This must not happen in these end times.

The onus is on us to change these tragic tendencies of the past so that religion is eliminated, rather than being fed; that revelation is not lost, but built on; so subsequent Kingdom generations rise more glorious.

As a spiritual father myself I must pass on to spiritual sons the current spiritual knowledge. These spiritual sons must gain more knowledge and pass that enlarged amount on to their spiritual sons. In this way there is a build-up, not a decline.

This is thinking and operating ‘generationally’. It requires apostolic leaders to see that those of the future must be set up to accomplish more for the Kingdom than they did – much, much more.

Let’s not rest on our accomplishments, but be firmly set in our minds to advance the Kingdom by seeing that revelation is transferred to those who follow, continuing to set people free from religion so they soar in the Spirit/spirit.

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1 – A.W. Tozer (1897-1963)

2 – Recorded in: Anita Bailey (2006) “God Tells the Man Who Cares”, Wingspread Publishers: Camp Hill, Pen. p:32 (The book is a collection A.W. Tozer’s editorials in the Alliance Life and Alliance Weekly magazine.)