

“Prophecy, Succession, & Witness!”

Acts 1:15-26

And in those days Peter stood up in the assembly of the Disciples, which altogether the **Number of Names** was about a hundred and twenty, and prophesied (saying), “**Brothers & Sisters (Men & Brethren)** this **Scripture** had to be **Fulfilled**, which the **Holy Spirit Spoke** before by the **Mouth of David** concerning **Judas**, who became a guide to those who arrested **Jesus**; for he was **Numbered with Us** and obtained a **Part in this Ministry**. Now this **Man (Judas)** purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that **Field** is called in their own language, ‘**Akel Dama**’, which means a ‘**Field of Blood**’. For it is **Written in the Book of Psalms**: ‘Let his dwelling place be desolate and let no one live in it’¹; and again, ‘let another take his office.’² (**Psalms 69:25¹ & 109:8²**) Therefore, of these **Men** who have accompanied us all the time that the **Lord Jesus** went in and out among us, beginning from the **Baptism of John** to that **Day** when He was taken up from us (**Ascension**), one of these must become a **Witness with Us of His Resurrection!**” And they proposed **Two Men**: **Joseph ‘Barsabas’**, who was surnamed ‘**Justus**’, and **Matthias**. And they prayed and said, “**You, O Lord, Who Know the Hearts of All**, show which of these **Two You Have Chosen** to take **Part in this Ministry & Apostleship** from which **Judas** by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place!” And they **Casted Lots**, and the **Lot Fell On Matthias**. And **He was Numbered** (the 12th) with the **Eleven Apostles**. **Acts 1:15-26 (NKJV)**

Q: “Is The Ministry Expanding In Those Early Days?”

A: Yes! Original 12 Apostles Expanded To 72 Disciples.

A: Now - 120 Gathered In The Upper Room Alone.

A: Their Number Expanded To Over 500 Who Saw Jesus & Believed in Him After His Resurrection

Paul said, “For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.” **1st Corinthians 15:3-6 (NKJV)**

Q: “Who Has The Gift Of Prophecy?”

A: The Apostles For Sure!

Peter stood up in the assembly of the Disciples, ... and prophesied! Acts 1:15 (NKJV)

A: It Is A Gift Given By The Holy Spirit To Some!

At Least Those Who Follow In Apostolic Succession From Jesus Christ

Through The Laying On Of Hands In The Sacrament Of Holy Orders!

Paul tells Timothy, “Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership” **1st Timothy 4:14 (NKJV)**

A: Today In The Church Some By Succession Still Have The Gift Of Prophecy!

Paul teaches, “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: ... There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all” ...

... “For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, **to another prophecy**, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.” **1st Corinthians 12:1 & 4-11 (NKJV)**

A: Theoretically, Everyone In The Last Days!

Joel prophesied, “**And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy**, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. And also, on My menservants and on My maidservants, I will pour out My Spirit in those days. And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the Lord has said, Among the remnant whom the Lord calls!”

Joel 2:28-29 & 32 (NKJV)

Q: “What Is Meant By Succession From Christ In The Church?”

A: There Are Two Lines Of Succession

A1: The 1st Line Of Succession - Everyone In The Church Passes Through!

It Is Forgiveness & Rebirth By Faith In Believing & Dedicating Our Life In Service As Obedient Followers To Our King & Master, The Lord Jesus Christ.

A2: The 2nd Line Of Succession - Is To The Elders & Leaders Of The Church Only!

It Is The Laying On Of Hands & The Giving Of Authority To Preach, Prophecy, Teach, & Baptize In Jesus’ Name.

Q: “What Is The Mission Of All Of Us In The Church Today, No Matter What Line Of Succession We Have Been Given To Follow?”

A: To Be God’s Witnesses To The Life, Death, Resurrection, Ascension, New Birth In Water Baptism, Full Infilling In Fire Baptism, & The Second Coming Of Jesus Christ To Everyone We Meet!

Let Us Make A Covenant With One Another & God This Day

To Truly Be His Faithful People Living In Succession, Through Prophecy & By Our Witness Until The Day Of His Return!