

No Success Without a Successor

By Jeffrey Bush

“There is no success without a successor.” No one is a self-made man. We all are *who* we are and *what* we are thanks to God and to the people He has placed in our lives. Parents, coaches, teachers, friends, and spiritual leaders are just a few we could mention who have helped us to be where we are and what we are. Check out a few people in Scripture who became who they were as a result of those before them:

1. Joshua was who he was because of the teaching and help from Moses.
2. God used Elisha in the life of Elijah.
3. Paul was the key man in the lives of Timothy, Titus, Philemon and many others. (But we cannot forget that Timothy also had his mother and grandmother play very important roles in his conversion and knowledge of the Scriptures - II Tim 1:5.)
4. There would be no Joseph to save his family from famine if there had not been first a Jacob who wrestled with the angel of Jehovah.

We could mention many more examples, but the simple fact is that many of our Bible examples were not self-made men. Even the great apostle Paul was only received by the churches and apostles because of Barnabus, and Moses grew in leadership skills because of his father-in-law Jethro. If these mighty men of faith were who they were because of others, we as well are who we are because of the many people God has placed in our lives.

I could name many people that God has used to help me in my life. These people taught me to love, to be patient (still working on that one), to work hard, to be a blessing to others, to work wisely, to not be greedy, and much more.



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*You can't take it
with you, but you
can send it on
ahead.*

- Oswald J. Smith

*The best remedy for
a sick church is to
put it on a
missionary diet.*

- David Livingstone

It would be good for all of us to stop and think of where we learned our good qualities and thank the Lord and the specific individuals for their input. Of course, we learn from mistakes and the bumps in life, but we all have many good characteristics because of those God has placed in our lives. I want to suggest a few things we should do because of what we have learned in life:

1. Contact in some way the people who have helped you and thank them. Your letter, call or gift can make someone's day!
2. Don't be afraid to tell others of those who taught you. Instead of sounding like a self-made man, let people know God has used others to help get you where you are.
3. Leave a good example for those who are watching you. There are always people watching you (children, coworkers, younger people, etc.) Be a good example in your attitude, actions, work ethic, faith, and service. Let other people see how you treat your family and others. Be the "real deal" and let others see a good example in your life.

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THE FAITH PROMISE PLAN

I. What is a goal?

A. It is not a platitude. (Ezr. 8:4-5)
B. It is not something that someone will come to collect. (I Cor. 8:12)
C. It is not something that you will sit down to figure out how much you can give this. (2 Th.)

II. It is not taken away from what you already give to the church.

III. What is it?

A. It is between you and God. (II Cor. 8:13)
B. It is trusting upon God to tell you how much the needs you face for reaching the world do exist. (Phil. 3:17)
C. You must trust Him to supply it. (II Cor. 9:8-9)
D. You and the missionary become partners in faith. Both must trust the Lord. (Rom. 1:17)

III. The faith promise is in accordance with the spirit of the New Testament.

A. From your offering as he purposes in his heart, so let him give. (II Cor. 9:7)
B. Giving is a spiritual resource. (II Cor. 9:4-5)

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My Faith Promise for World Evangelism

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