



EACH
GENERATION
MUST
DISCOVER
ITS MISSION



FROM
KEITH'S
HEART
TO
YOURS

“Each **generation** must discover its **mission**, fulfill it or betray it...”

The very recent death of Queen Elizabeth and the immediate accession to the throne of her son King Charles, has captured the attention of the global community, with both electronic and print media following every move of the smooth transition from one generation to the next within the monarchy. So apparent has the late queen's impact and influence been throughout her reign, that commentators refer to her passing as the end of the Elizabethan era and the media's attention is turning to speculating how the new king's impact will be in the years of his reign.

The late French psychiatrist and political philosopher Frantz Fanon is quoted as saying: “Each generation must discover its mission, fulfill it or betray it...” Despite the fact that he wrote this against the background of a very different context and for very different reasons and, while it is to be seen how the two monarchs representing two different generations will be remembered for the way they approached their mission, I couldn't help being affected by the challenge these words carry, as I apply it to the cause of Jesus Christ for which you and I are called.

These eleven words are charged with meaning and it is worth taking a moment to let the challenge sink in.

1. **EACH GENERATION**

My reading of scripture has made me aware of how much emphasis is placed on demarcating the natural divisions and differences there are between generations. There is clear CONTINUITY between generations, but there are also very real DIFFERENCES in the way generations think, interpret things and operate. Not appreciating these differences can lead to confrontation, misunderstanding and judgmentalism.

Continuity is seen in the fact that God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, so the generations are held together by His timelessness and our submission to Him. But, it is equally true that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had distinctive differences and the circumstances, culture and contexts they encountered, all differed. In that, each generation had to discover God's call and mission for them in their various situations and circumstances, confronting their unique challenges, yet respecting the differences

between them. They built on the wisdom and experience of the previous generations, but had to work out that call and mission for themselves in the times they faced.

2. MUST DISCOVER ITS MISSION

On a few occasions, Tony has spoken of how the message of the gospel of the kingdom has moved from the sidelines to much more of a central position in theological circles. What was once seen as obscure teaching, not taken seriously and shunned, is now becoming increasingly mainstream, as eyes are opening to the breadth of what the Gospel actually entails.

When understood correctly and accurately (there is a lot of false teaching under the banner of the gospel of the kingdom), the call to every generation of Christ followers is both clear and revolutionary. Fanon spoke of the need for mounting legitimate revolution against unjust political structures, but, simply grasping the profound reach of the gospel message, understanding its call, interpreting its implications in meaningful ways in each age, and then giving ourselves to that call as obedient servants of Jesus, is the most revolutionary mission all generations can commit themselves to in their unique times.

3. FULFILL OR BETRAY IT

Acts 13:36 records that it was only *after king David had served the purpose of God in his own generation*, that he died. I understand this to imply that it is possible for us to complete an assignment that God has given to each of us, within the very specific framework of the generation we are individually a part of. Of course Abraham had an influence on Isaac who, in turn, influenced Jacob. Yet, there were certain things specific enough to the mission God gave to each of those men, to make me wonder how much poorer the next generations would have been if any of them had failed to be obedient to their call in their generation. If they had been more worried about what the next generations were thinking or judging how they behaved, than they were about fulfilling the purpose of God in their generation. What if Abraham had opted for the safe, secure lifestyle he might have had by staying in Haran, as opposed to carving out a lifestyle of faith, proving God's provision and pursuing Father's ultimate geographical expansion plans for His people? What if Isaac had wilted under the pressure of political threat from Abimelech the king of the Philistines or if he never contended with all of the stresses of a growing economic enterprise and being responsible for the welfare of both people and stock, before being recognized by his peers as one who carried the favor of God? And scripture is full of other examples of generation after

generation either fulfilling or, equally, betraying the mission God gave them.

More recently, I have taken note of just how many men and women of God that I have "known" because of their larger than life leadership profiles, have gone to be with the Lord. It is like a generation or two ahead of me have run their race. These people have left an indelible impression on our landscape either through their writings or through the kingdom cause they have pioneered in various fields/spheres/mountains. They have been known as groundbreakers and, had they not been faithful to their call, sometimes at enormous personal or reputation cost, I doubt that we would be living today in the blessing of those breakthroughs as a "normal" part of our followership of Jesus. Their example of ending strong and well, challenges me as to whether I am fulfilling or betraying the mission God has given to my generation.

Where disconnect between the generations often occurs is when we interact on the basis of "when I was your age" as opposed to "when I was your years" as, for example, what I confronted in the "age" during my teenage years is vastly different to what modern teenagers face. That can be the bedrock for misunderstanding, judgmentalism, tension, and have a polarizing effect instead of a kingdom advancing togetherness. The way of the kingdom is where each generation looks to itself to fulfill its God given mission in the specific dynamics of its generation, while God crafts a narrative of mutual respect, honor and grace across the generations, despite the very fleshly differences that threaten our togetherness. That unity in Christ is far more revolutionary than what Fanon called for.

May God give us His wisdom to discover His mission in our generation and then the courage and grace to fulfill it and not betray it.

Keith



KEITH & SHELLEY
Du Plessis

**OUR TRIBUTE TO QUEEN
ELIZABETH II**

When the news broke on Thursday, September 8 that Queen Elizabeth was seriously ill and the family had been called to Balmoral, we, like many of you, began to sense the sadness as we waited for news. When it came we felt grief like we had received news of the death of a very close family member. Since then we have heard of so many that had similar experiences. Some that were shocked at the depth of the impact.



We were very young when the Queen came to the throne and so had not really known life without her. Her photo on the wall of every public building, Coronation memorabilia in our homes, toasts to her at weddings and of course the singing of the National Anthem. “God save our Gracious Queen”. Christmas was not quite complete without hearing her Christmas message.

Our clip in the last AC talk, was about mourning from a blessed place. Little did we realize we would arrive at this day, especially for those who are a part of the UK or a nation where the Queen was head of state or a Commonwealth nation, and be in a time of national mourning. Is this outpouring of grief because it happened at the end of two years of much sadness, or it signifies the end of an era that for many she was the stabilizing rock, or the loosing of someone who was above the turmoil of political life, or maybe all of the above and more? What we do know is it is the loss of an exceptional life that was summarized in the book “The Servant Queen and the King she serves”.

Our thoughts are best expressed in this song tribute: <https://youtu.be/HNeqtk7EyCs>

Your Majesty, thank you. Ma’am, we will miss you.

Tony & Marilyn

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