

The Convergency 2018  
Session #3:Apostolic Fathering  
Friday, October 19, 2018  
7:45 pm-9:00pm  
Apostle Ellis Smith

## Apostolic Fathering

### I. **The Biblical Concept of Apostolic Fathering**

A. 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12—In present the day church, apostolic fathering has been confused with control, dominance, and absolute authority. Many of God’s people have been burned, wounded, and spiritually damaged by controlling and abusive leaders in the church, and the last thing they need is someone claiming divine dominion over their lives.

B. One of the main elements of apostolic fathering is that it produces the spirit of sonship it ushers spiritual children through the five levels of spiritual growth and development. In the New Testament Greek, there are five major words that are used interchangeably for babe, son, child, and children.

#### 1. Brephos-Unborn or newborn baby

A. Luke 1:41- “...the **babe** leaped in her womb...”

B. Luke 2:12-“...the **babe** wrapped in swaddling clothes...”

C. II Timothy 3:15-“...and that from a **child** you have known the Holy Scriptures...”

D. I Peter 2:2-“...As newborn **babes**, desire the pure milk of the word...”

2. Nepios - One who cannot speak, simple minded person, babyish, immature Christian.
  - A. Hebrew 5:13-“For everyone that uses milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a **babe**.
  - B. I Corinthians 3:1-“...even as unto **babes** in Christ.”
  - C. Galatians 4:3-“Even so when we were **children**...”
  - D. Ephesians 4:14-“That we should no longer be **children**, tossed to and fro...”
  - E. I Corinthians 14:20 - “...in malice be **babes**...”
3. Paidion- A small or young child (2-4 years old)
  - A. Romans 8:16 -“...we are **children** of God...”
  - B. I Corinthians 14:20- Brethren, be not **children** in understanding...”
  - C. Hebrews 11:23- “Moses’ parents saw that he was a proper **child**...”
4. Teknon- an older child or adolescent (5-12 years old)
  - A. Romans 8:16- “...we are **children** of God...”
  - B. Ephesians 5:1-“Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear **children**...”
  - C. I Peter 1:14 -“...as obedient **children**.”
5. Huios- A mature son adult son (13 years or older)
  - A. Romans 9:26-“Be called the **children** of the living God.”
  - B. I Thessalonians 5:15-“Ye are **children** of light...”
  - C. Galatians 3:7-“...those who are of faith are the **sons** of Abraham.”
  - D. Romans 8:14-“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the **sons** of God.”

## **II. The Spiritual Fruit of Apostolic Fathering**

- A. One of the joyful rewarding benefits of the fathering dimension is that it produces the “spirit of sonship” that will manifest in four distinct areas:
  1. Unconditional Love
  2. Leadership Clothed With Humility
  3. Spiritual Legacy
  4. Divinely Appointed Lineage.
- B. Apostolic fathering leads sons into the image of God (Galatians 4:19, Genesis 1:26, I Corinthians 4:15-16, II Timothy 2:1-2)