



14 Doing the Lord's Work in the Lord's Way—Crisis-Converted *Acts 6:1-7*

Acts 6:1-7 *Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.*

- I. The Circumstance (6:1)
 - A. Increase in Numbers

 - B. A Complaint
 - 1) Its Rightfulness (Deuteronomy 14:28-29; Isaiah 1:16-17; 21-23; James 1:27)
 - 2) Its Reason

A Key to Spiritual Progress: Disruption

- II. The Solution (6:2-6)
 - A. An Uncompromising Commitment (6:2, 4)
A Key Passage for the Church: Ephesians 4:11-12
(katartidzo – "equip")
But how?
 - 1) The Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

 - 2) Prayer (Colossians 4:12)

- B. An Uncompromising Call (6:3, 5-6)
 - 1) Spirit-directed Organization

 - 2) Spirit-directed, Qualified Men (three qualifications)
Some thoughts on manhood:
 - a) Good Reputation

 - b) Characterized by Spirit-Control

 - c) Characterized by Godly Wisdom

- III. The Result (6:7)
Described in three ways:
 - 1) Through the Word

 - 2) Through Disciples

 - 3) Through the Religious

The Pattern of Evangelism in the New Testament:

- 1) Proclaim the Gospel to Every Person in Every Nation, beginning Locally (Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 3:13-17)
 - a) Proclamation

- 2) Maintain a Blameless Lifestyle for the Furtherance of the Gospel (Philippians 2:12-16)
 - a) Demonstration

Matthew-Acts emphasis =

Epistles (Romans-Jude) emphasis =

The Lord's Work done in the Lord's Way results in the Lord's Blessing.
*P.S. It is His sovereign right and loving heart that determines what
"blessing" looks like.*

Daryle Emch, Men's Director, Whitehall Campus
New Life Church/June 18, 2017



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