

Title/Date: 7/30/23 "The Prototype Deacons" pt 1.

(How should we handle personal or church complaints today?)

Text: Acts 6:1-8



1. Introduction:

2. Chad's Literal Translation – Acts 6:1-8 Now in these days the disciples were multiplying (and) there became grumbling (from) the Hellenists towards the Hebrews because their widows were overlooked in the daily service. But the twelve having summoned the multitude of the disciples they said "It is not desirable for us having left the word of the God to serve tables. But you all shall see to it brothers men from out of you all testifying seven full of the spirit and wisdom which we will set over the need of these. But we will continue (in) the prayer and the service of the Word. And the word pleased before/with everyone of the multitude 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 Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, which causing to stand before the Apostles and having prayed they laid on them the hands. And the Word of God grew and multiplied greatly the number of the disciples in Jerusalem. (And) many from the crowd of the priests became obedient (to) the faith. But Stephen was full of grace and grower and was doing wonders and great signs among the people.

3. Sermon Outline: Acts 6:1-8 teaches us 7 Biblical Principles regarding:

1. How to biblically handle **complaints** in the church (conflict resolution/problem solving/reconciliation of relationships)
2. How to biblically **lead** the church (Biblical roles of Elders and Deacons and the Members of the Congregation)
3. How to biblically **take care** of the physical needs of our people (benevolence/practically helping and encouraging others)
4. How to biblically **select** new church leaders (prototype Deacons)
5. How to biblically **grow** as a church (God's Will for Church Growth)
6. How to biblically **reach** even the most resistant people (religious but not saved)
7. How to biblically **serve and imitate** godly & powerful men (Ex. Stephen)

4. Main Points Expanded:

1. How to biblically handle **complaints** in the church

(conflict resolution/problem solving)

Acts 6:1 Now at this time while the disciples were increasing *in number*, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic *Jews* against the *native* Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving *of food*.

- **Complaint** - γογγυσμός *goggusmos*: a muttering, murmuring (root: γογγύζω *gogguzo*: *to mutter, murmur*)

Verses with this word: Exodus 16:7 -9, 12; Numbers 17:20, 25; Ps. Sol. 5:13; 16:11; Isaiah 58:9; John 7:12; Acts 6:1; *Philippians 2:14; 1 *Peter 4:9

- **Philippians 2:14 -16** ¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing; ¹⁵ so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast the word of life...
- **1 Peter 4:9** ⁹ Be hospitable to one another without complaint.

a. Colossians 3 it– if preference/non-sin issues...overlook it
with grace, forbearance, and love (love covers
over/protects not exposes– Prov. 10:12, 1 Peter 4:8)

Colossians 3:12-14 ¹² So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. ¹⁴ Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

b. Matthew 5-7 it – no matter if a preference or sin issue... pray about it

and first examine your own heart, motives, and actions from God's perspective and from the other person's viewpoint, but always with a humble attitude to forgive as the Lord has already forgiven us.

Matthew 5:44 ⁴⁴ "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Matthew 6:12-15 Pray in this way... ¹² 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. *For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen* . ¹⁴ "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ "But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

Matthew 7:1-5 "Do not judge so that you will not be judged. ² "For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. ³ "Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴ "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? ⁵ "You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

c. **Romans 12 it** – if continues to hinder the relationship – address it by going to the person one to one/privately *before*/without talking about the person or the problem with others in order to pursue the highest level of reconciliation possible by seeking clarification, talking out any miscommunication, and working out any misunderstandings. ***Keep the circle of the problem as small as possible (who is part of the problem and the solution)

Romans 12:10-18 ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; ¹¹ not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, ¹³ contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. ¹⁷ Never pay back evil for evil to anyone Respect what is right in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

Matthew 5:23-24 ²³ "Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

d. **Acts 6 it** – if it's a church problem that is hurting the church or those in the church but not necessarily a sin issue by an individual – let the Elders know about it (take any complaints or problems in the church to the Elders so they can address and solve the problem or work on the weakness)

- The Elders should address and fix any problems quickly, in a timely matter
- The Elders obviously met and reached unanimity in how to address and fix the problem (notice they did not ignore, deny or downplay the problem but acknowledged it and quickly worked to fix it)
- The Elders involved/consulted the entire congregation for their collective wisdom in order to arrive at the best solution
- The Elders delegated the action phase to others, the work/service to godly/spiritual men not only to bring about the best solution for the church but also to protect their service/ministry/calling to prioritize prayer and the teaching of the Word
- The delegated authority of the Elders was bestowed only after Elders prayed and established specific SPIRITUAL qualifications/criteria (Ex. Titus 1 / 1 Tim. 3)
- The Elders have the final authority in the church as the decision makers of the church by selecting seven prototype deacons by the laying on of their hands

Acts 6:1-4 Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenist Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food. ² So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God to serve tables. ³ "Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task."⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

e. **Matthew 18 it** – if it's an obvious sin issue, confront it, but it must be a clear action against a clear Scripture with clear evidence) follow the 4 steps of Matthew 18:15-17

- Go 1 to 1 to seek their repentance and restoration (protect their reputation)
- Confirm with 2 or 3 witnesses to seek their repentance and restoration (evidence/confirmation)
- Tell it to the church in order for the weight/power of the entire church to urgently call them to repentance with motivation of restoration not repudiation
- Remove them from the church (protect the reputation/holiness of the church) and evangelize them as an unbeliever

Matthew 18:15-17 ¹⁵ "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. ¹⁶ "But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED. ¹⁷ "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

James 5:19-20 ¹⁹ My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

5. Application:

Three Front War: The World, The Flesh, The Devil

The War Within	The Culture War	The Spiritual War
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Battle with ourselves• Our Flesh vs Our Spirit (Gal. 5:22-25)• Romans 7:1-25, 8:1-39• Nothing good dwells in me that is my flesh• all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.• Fruits of the Spirit...self-control	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Battle against the world (unbelievers)• John 15:19,• 1 John 2:15-17• The world hates us because it hated Jesus first whom we represent• Do not love the world or anything in the world...the world and its lusts are passing away	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Battle with Satan/Demons• Heavenly Realms• Ephesians 6:10-18, 1 Peter 5:8-9• The evil one pits believers against one another circumstantially• Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ But resist him, firm in your faith

The War of Entropy – everything breaking down towards chaos confusion, disorder, disfunction...everything breaks and does not stay fixed (2nd Law of Thermodynamics...also known Biblically as the Curse...everything is decaying and dying. Nothing in this fallen, cursed, and sin-filled world is absolutely perfect, 100% satisfying, or meetings our expectations fully (with the exception of God and His Word). We will always be a little bit in want, so that we long and hope for what is perfect, fulfilling, and needs no fixing or improving – God and his Heavenly Abode/Dwelling...until then we will always be longing, hoping, and waiting for our future glorification and final home (Romans 8:18 -25, 2 Corinthians 4:7 -18, Hebrews 11:13 -16)

TRUTH BIBLE CHURCH



FOLLOWERS OF JESUS SEEKING TO...

LOVE GOD SUPREMELY

Matthew 22:37-38 ³⁷ And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND." ³⁸ "This is the great and foremost commandment.

SERVE PEOPLE SINCERELY

Matthew 22:39 ³⁹ "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

John 13:34-35 ³⁴ "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

REACH THE LOST URGENTLY

Matthew 28:19-20 ¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Acts 6:1-7

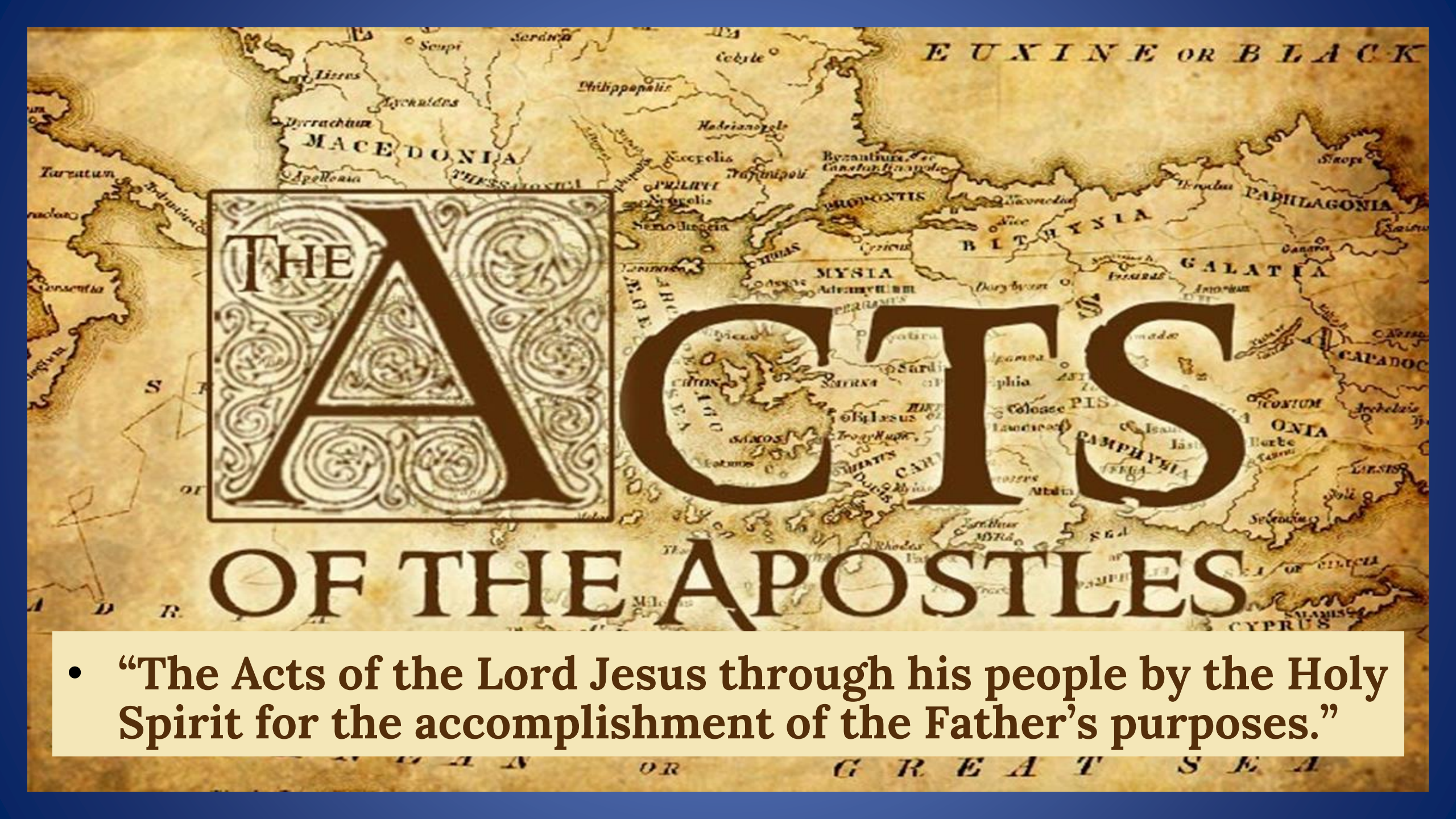
Now at this time while the disciples were increasing *in number*, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic *Jews* against the *native* Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving *of food*.² So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables."³ "Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task."⁴ "But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."



Acts 6:1-7

⁵ The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch. ⁶ And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them. ⁷ The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.





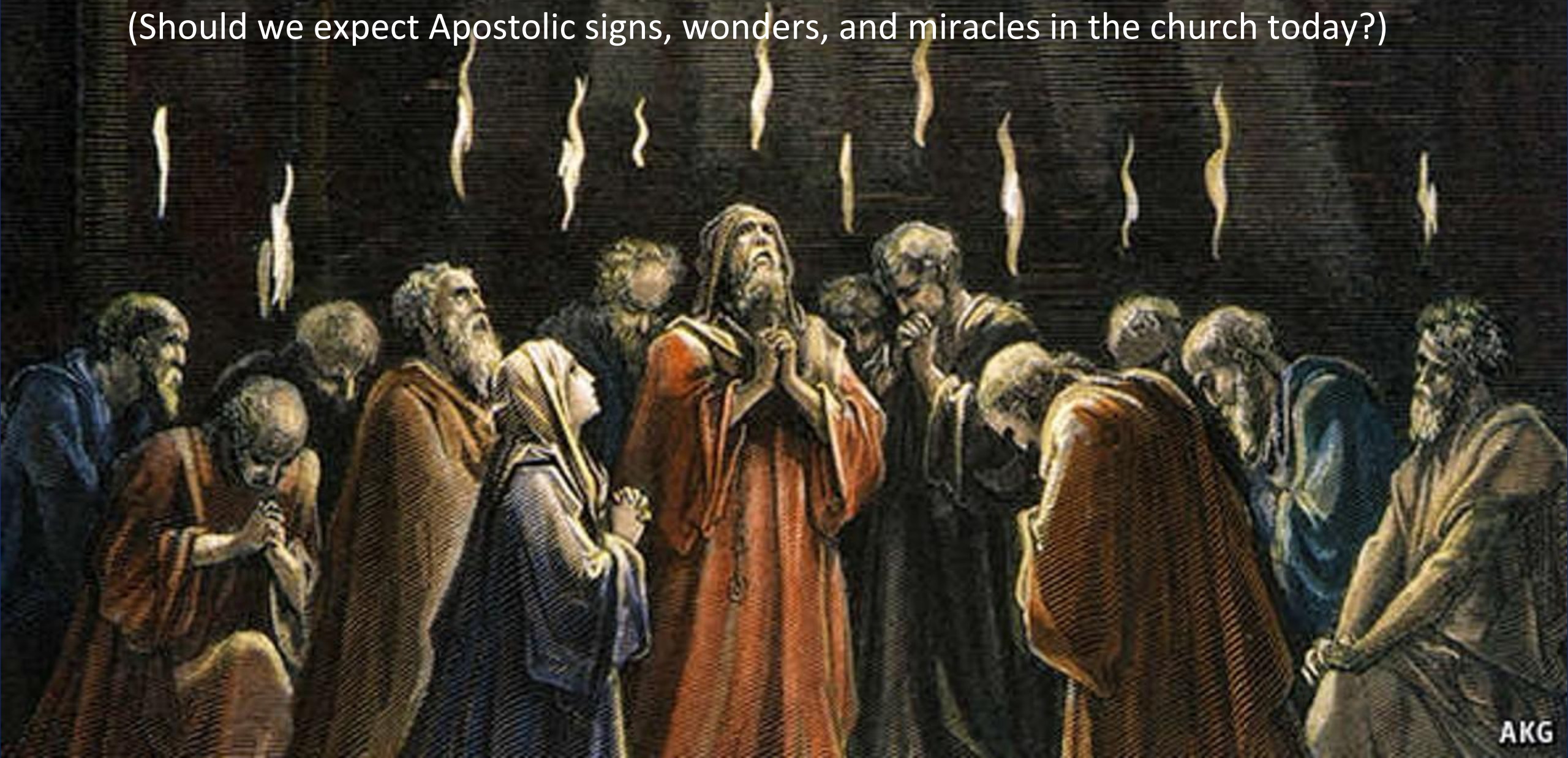
THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

- “The Acts of the Lord Jesus through his people by the Holy Spirit for the accomplishment of the Father’s purposes.”

Last two weeks:

Are there modern day Apostles?

(Should we expect Apostolic signs, wonders, and miracles in the church today?)



TBC's Position	Middle Positions	Other Positions
Religious	Agnostic	Atheist
Christian	Theist (God exists but can't be known)	Other Religions (Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Judaism, New Age)
Protestant (5 solas of the Reformation)		Coptic, Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic (R.C. Catechism, Tradition, Councils, Magisterium, 7 sacraments)
Low Church/Non-Liturgical		High Church/Liturgical (Episcopal, Anglican, Lutheran)
Evangelical/Conservative/Gospel Driven (Trinity, Inspiration/Authority of the Bible, Salvation by grace through faith, Conversion/being Born Again, Witnessing/Evangelizing, Personal Faith - Christian morals, ethics, living, Return of Jesus/Heaven)		Liberal/Cultural Driven Churches
Biblicist/High View of Scripture Fundamentalist/Bible Driven (biblical inerrancy/sufficiency - importance of doctrine, usually dispensational/pro Israel, young earth creationism, exclusivity/deity/sinlessness, virgin birth, perfect life/imputation, sacrificial death/penal substitutionary atonement, resurrection/intercession of Jesus, specifics of Salvation - penal substitutionary atonement, emphasis on repentance receiving Jesus as Savior and Lord to avoid Hell, emphasis on the church priority and authority, emphasize eschatology - rapture, tribulation, 2nd coming, Mill. Kingdom, New Heavens/Earth. Morally Absolute positions on fornication, adultery, homosexuality, abortion, etc. Everything the church does or doesn't do has a Scriptural basis, mandate, backing/derived from the Bible.		Low View of Scripture, Ecumenical / Unity Driven/ Doctrinally Undefined (non specific in doctrine in order to appeal to the largest number of people possible or unify the greatest numbers of people)
Lordship Salvation - No works/deeds are required for salvation but true belief involves Biblical Repentance (confession and willingness to turn from sin), Faith (genuine belief/trust in Jesus alone to save from sin/God's wrath), and Lordship (commitment/covenant that promises to follow and obey Jesus as Lord is required for salvation as they are not works/deeds but attitudes and actions of genuine faith/believing heart.		Non- Lordship (Grace Alone/Free Grace Position) No repentance is required for salvation - just faith/belief. And saving faith/belief may never produce any change or obedience, and repentance/willing to obey Jesus as Lord is a follow on commitment after salvation and part of sanctification, but not a condition for salvation.
Progressive Sanctification for EVERY true believer - Spiritual Disciplines (Prayer, Word, Fellowship, Witnessing), Holiness/Righteousness/godliness (living according to God's Word), and Obedience to Jesus's commands because He is LORD is NOT required to be saved but IS required and expected for everyone who has truly believed and really been saved. Good works/deeds are the proof/evidence of salvation as the Holy Spirit produces it and promises Biblical change/obedience/progressive growth and sanctification/conformity to Christ in EVERY real believer (2 Cor. 5:15-21)		Just say the Sinners Prayer - because once saved always saved even if a person is living continually just like the wicked world. Obedience to the Bible/Jesus' Commands, Holy Living, and progressive sanctification is not to be demanded or expected in every true believer. Some only say the sinners prayer and add Jesus to their sinful life, but do not need to leave their life of sin.
Non-Denominational - Denominational affiliation is ok but not essential and at times detrimental as people come to have negative views/perceptions of denominations that keep them from visiting affiliated local churches		Denominational affiliation is important and beneficial / Main Line Protestant Denominations (Episcopal, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist, Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ/Christian Church, AME African Methodist Episcopal, Reformed Church in American/Dutch Reformed)
Historical Grammatical Interpretation/ Singular Meaning Hermeneutics/ (Literal, Contextual, Grammatical, Historical, Total)		Allegorical, Experiential, Personal, Multiple Meaning Hermeneutics/Interpretation
TBC holds a middle position on the Calvinometer - we believe in depravity, election, atonement, grace, and perseverance of the saints just not in the typical extra biblical definitions and their understanding of the modifying words - total, unconditional, limited, irresistible, limited)...so we believe in God's absolute Sovereignty and Goodness/Holiness, predestination based on love, grace, and foreknowledge that is a mystery to its particulars, the gracious planing, providing, and preaching of salvation/ drawing of men without which no man would be saved or can come to Jesus on His own, and the security	Calvinism (a.k.a. Reformed Theology) TULIP - 1. total depravity, 2. unconditional election, 3. limited atonement, 4. irresistible grace, 5. perseverance of the saints) (6. double election/reprobation 7. God plans/will/ordains	Arminianism Free Will or Human Ability: ability to choose or reject God's offer of salvation. Conditional Election: God's election or choice of individuals for salvation is based on His foreknowledge of their faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ's death on the cross was intended to provide salvation for all people, not just for a specific group of individuals predetermined by God. Conditional Election: the atonement is sufficient for

<p>Partial Cessationism (Apostolic sign gifts - signs, wonders, miracles, and 1 Cor 13:8 gifts - prophecy, knowledge, and tongues have ceased with the maturity of the church)</p>	<p>Total Cessationism - none of the spiritual gifts in Romans 12 and 1 Cor. 12 are for today - almost the anti-supernatural view of Thomas Jefferson as a Theist who removed all miracles from his Bible</p>	<p>Continuationism (all spiritual gifts are operational and are for today, we should expect everything in the book of Acts to happen today)</p>
<p>Nouthetic Counseling (Bible Only) The Bible is not only innerrant and infallible but is also fully suffiecient - has everything we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3)</p>	<p>Integrationist Counseling (Mix Bible with Psychology of Philsophy)</p>	<p>Trust and dependence on Man's Knowledge (Psychology, Philosophy, Science, etc.)</p>
<p>Expository Preaching (preaching through books of the Bible chapter by chapter, verse by verse)</p>		<p>Topical, Self-Help, Antecdotal Preaching</p>
<p>Elder Led/Elder Ruled church government</p>		<p>Congregational Rule, Pastor Rule, Deacon Rule, Heirarchal Rule</p>
<p>God Sensative/Bible Driven Churches - everything to please/glorify God - success is what God sees and whats - focus on equipping believers who comprise the church to reach unbelievers outside the church</p>		<p>Seeker Sensative/Culture Driven Churches - church built around attracting unbelievers, success is what man sees (numbers, popularity, buildings, programs, etc.)</p>
<p>Believer's Baptism/Anabaptist Roots (strong emphasis on believer's baptism, voluntary church membership, discipleship, and the separation of church and state. They advocate for a more radical interpretation of Christian teachings and often faced persecution for their beliefs.</p>	<p>Anabaptist groups/denominations and history: Mennonite, Amish, Grace Brethren, Hutterites are anabaptists - original anabaptists where greatly opposed or persecuted by the Roman Catholics, Anglicans/Church of England, Calvinist/Reformed/Presbyterians, and Lutherans for their ana/against infant baptismism beliefs of believer's baptism as were labeled anabaptists or "rebaptizer" by their opponents. The teaching of Swiss Reformer Huldrych Zwingli on the authority of Scripture and criticism of the Caholic Mass led to the first "rebaptizers" - Conrad Grebel, Felix Manz and George Blaurock (formed the first Anabaptist congregation in Zurich, Switzerland, in 1525), Menno Simons, Baltasar Hubmaier, Wilhelm Reublin, and Michael Sattler were also early anabaptist founders. Its also important to note that not only did Jesus and the 1st century/early church practice beleiver's baptism, but also the 2nd century Montanists, and 3rd century Novatianists until it was "rediscovered" in the 16th century during the Protestant Reformation.</p>	<p>Infant Baptism/Churches that baptize infants for salvation (removal of original sins like the Catholics or those who believe it's simliar to circumcision in the Old Testament as a sign and seal of God's covenant relationship with famlies - so that it is a promise of God's grace, the congregations commitment to teach the child the knowledge and love of God, and a families/parents commitment to raise their child in the faith and that as the child comes of age they will respond faviorably in time to God's grace and profess their faith in Jesus Christ.</p>
<p>Water Baptism is Evidence of salvation but not required for salvation as the first act/step a new Christian should do/take after repenting of their sins and placing their faith in Jesus as Lord - and baptism was the main way that people "joined" the early church as far a membership rite - but baptism in no way saves by the act itself, but is proof/evidence that someone is saved as they will want to do the first thing their new Lord commands after their confession that Jesus is Lord.</p>		<p>Baptismal Regeneration - someone is not saved until they are baptized in water, some believe they must speak in tongues and be baptized a certain way (mode) and in a certain church by certain people in order to be saved. Most Church of Christ and Oneness Pentecostals are examples of baptismal regeneration.</p>
<p>Complimentarian - men and women have equal value, but different/unique roles - men are to the be leaders of the church and home - husbands loving their wife as co-heirs, wives submitting to their husbands in everything as to the Lord.</p>		<p>Egalitarian (men and women do not have unique roles or positions - women pastors, women leaders, wives not submitting to husband, working outside the home even with young children, etc.</p>
<p>Blended Worship - TBC is both contemporary and traditional at times. We promote passionate, partipatory, and theologically accurate songs in musical worship foremost for/unto God but also to edify beleivers - we have blended music - hymns, contemporary music, not opposed to drums, guitars, and other cultural styles of music as long as they genuinely are for the Lord and in line with truth/Bible</p>	<p>Contemporary Music Only or music targeted to a specific group or genre</p>	<p>Traditional Music - hymns only, or Culture driven music where a style of music caters to a specific group/culture/subset of people</p>

Chad: 7 dangers of Continuationism is:

1. Distortion

– Distortion of God's Word – most often Personal Experience is placed over or equal to the Word of God. They are often feelings and experience driven rather than truth/Bible driven as they don't practice consistent hermeneutics (principles of bible interpretation). How do they know their dream, voice, or prophecy is from God and not from Satan or just from their own flesh that seeks to be seen as important or recognized by other believers? This allows for "new ideas" "new revelation" which is a modern day Gnosticism (secret knowledge that is superior to the Bible) so that "God told me/spoke to me/revealed to me" is how Joseph Smith the founder of Mormonism, Muhammad the found of Islam were all continuationists who claimed an angel gave them new revelation/Scripture (which I believe actually happened, but the angel of light was not from God as proven by the revelations that not only contradict the Bible but have a works based system of salvation, and deny critical aspects of Jesus – his diety, his humanity, his sinlessness, his sacrifice, his resurrection, or his return.

2. Distraction

– Distraction from Doctrine – progressively obeying what God commands in Scripture - They often emphasize signs, wonders, miracles and supernatural spiritual gifts rather than holy living, knowing and living out the Bible.

3. Disorder

– Disorderly Worship - Unbiblical/chaotic worship - They often participate in unruly, disorderly, and chaotic worship that is not from God as God would never seek worship, empower worship, or promote worship that goes against his word – multiple tongue speaking no interpreters as 1 Cor. 12-14 is clear tongues is a sign for unbelievers, to hear the gospel in their own language, and must always have an interpret be done with decency and order... and with prophecy there must be at the most 2 or 3. This is why TBC firmly believes that 1 Cor 12-14 is a warning about the abuse of spiritual gifts to draw attention to one self instead of edifying/building up the church in love as it says without love we are/have nothing. And we are cessationists because Paul makes it clear not to clamor or misuse these gifts because even three of the gifts prophecy, knowledge, and tongues will cease when the telios/MATURITY of the church comes. And it clearly has ceased because I know of no so called modern Apostle who can on command or with verification do what I call the "stuff" perform the signs of a true apostle – signs, wonders, and miracles. No one can do it – no Pentecostal/charismatic church avoided Covid, none of their Apostles went healed all the people dying of Covid, because they can't do the stuff and are false apostles.

4. Dishonesty

– Dishonest Gain – deceit, greed, for Personal Profit – throughout our country and especially in Africa – "faith healers" so called "Apostles" are taking advantage of the poor and desperate – it sounds like this, if you just sow your seed of faith and give me your money, you are guaranteed for God to heal you, bless you financially, give you YOUR MIRACLE/so you will have your BEST LIFE NOW. Watch out for the preachers who say God told them they need a private leer jet and multiple mansions and especially to old people who have failing health to give their savings to them while promising God is going to make everything rich like them. This is nothing more than a devilish ponsi scheme – so watch out for the The Kenneth Copelands, Benny Hinns, Richard Tiltons, Creflo Dollar, TD Jakes, Joel Osteens of our world, and almost all the preachers on TBN are false teachers who are enriching themselves by bilking the poor,

5. Deception

– Deceptive Lies - False hope, False lies and false promises – not only are they enriching themselves through their fake miracles, they give false hope with multiple false promises, and ridiculous antics that makes the rest of the world think Jesus and Christians are not just freaks, crazy, but funny hilarious FAKES and FRUADS. One charlatan we saw in Africa while we were in Uganda was promising people God would give them a Lambrigini and park it next to his if they just gave everything/money they needed to feed their kids – to him. So sad/tragic how they are misrepresenting the real Jesus, distorting the

- Bible and the real gospel, and making real Christians look ridiculous – so I always tell people don't make your decision about Jesus and the Bible based on someone's poor or false representation but make your decision on Jesus himself by reading God's Word for yourself.

6. Disappointment

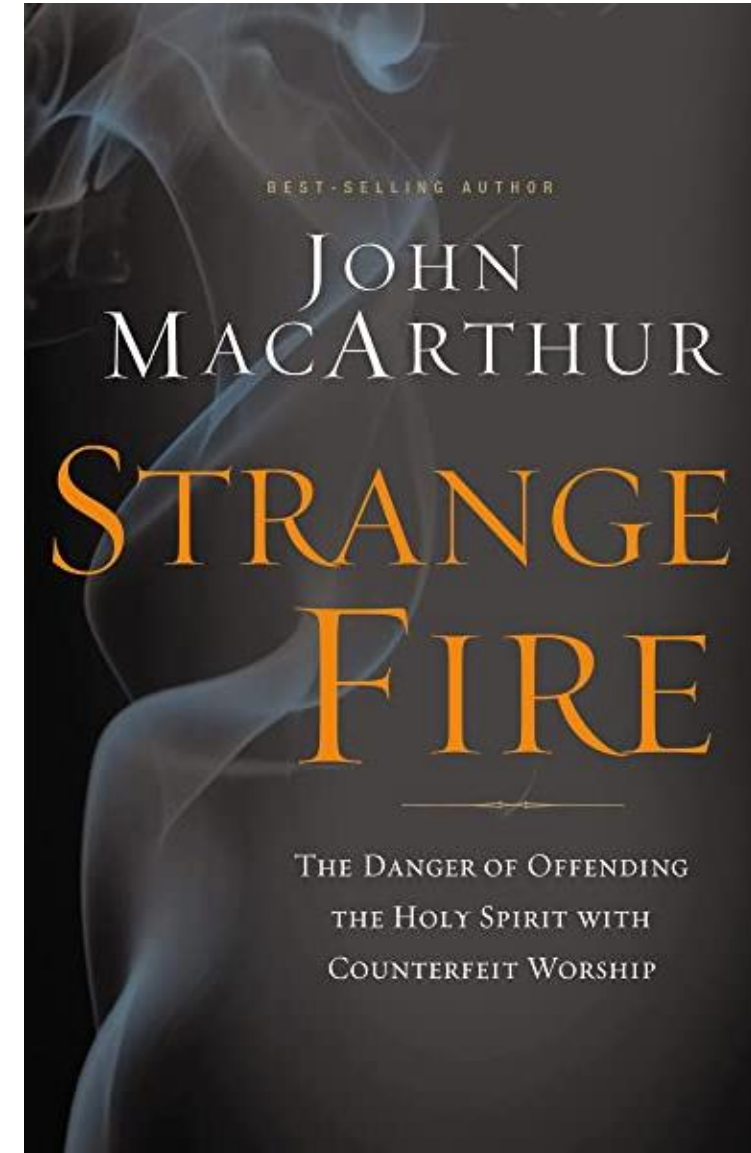
– many Charasmatics/Pentecostals become disillusioned end of leaving the church all together after being totally disappointed and disenfranchised from the church – why? They eventually see the greed of their Pastors, or realize that their Pastors or healers can't really do the stuff - heal them or others, they don't get healed, they don't get rich, they modern church can't really do *everything* the Apostles or the early did what they read the book of Acts so some punt and throw away the faith altogether because to them it simply doesn't WORK as their leaders promised them. The modern church is still impacted by accidents, sickness, disease, tragedies, they still get Covid, they still get sick, their old and most faithful saints still die because of the curse of sin, some still get cancer and die without healing even though they enough faith that God would heal them or their loved one. But many are given unbiblical EXPECTATIONS and are not taught nor understand ALL that the Bible promises believers for this life... joy in the midst of persecution, perseverance/perspective in the face of pain/sorrow, fellowship/genuine love among believers in the midst of a hateful/selfish/sinful world, resurrection and entrance into the Kingdom AFTER we die or after the church is raptured, and that our best life is not NOW (this is the proving/testing grounds for those who love/follow Jesus and Lord in order to enter His future Kingdom) but LATER – when we rule and reign with Him for 1000 years and beyond in His Kingdom that will never end.

7. Depart

– and for some and probably many – many of these churches don't preach the real gospel/good news of Jesus Christ resulting in pseudo/false converts – don't explain His perfect life to impute perfect righteous standing with God, don't explain His sacrificial death, specifically Jesus' blood as the payment to God to free us from God's coming wrath/perfect justice against all sin and every sinner, don't explain His victorious resurrection and ongoing intercession for us from heaven as our constant hope and solace when we continue to struggle with sin even after we are saved. And don't preach or urge biblical repentance, faith, and willingness to follow Jesus as Lord with your whole life rather than through some cheap words or momentary spiritual experiences. So that the most scary passage in the Bible and most tragic words to ever hear are heard by many who are "religious but not saved." Matthew 7:22-23 ²² "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' ²³ "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

“The greatest need for the church today is **DISCERNMENT**”
5 TESTS from 1 John 4:2-8 in the form of 5 QUESTIONS (P.39)

1. Does the work exalt the true Christ?
2. Does it oppose worldliness?
3. Does it point people to the Scriptures?
4. Does it elevate truth?
5. Does it produce love for God & others?



Apply Now 

How to identify/discover your spiritual gifts

1 Peter 4:7-11: Categories & Purpose of Spiritual Gifts

- Two categories of gifts
 - **Speaking Gifts** (speak as one speaking the utterances of God)
 - **Serving Gifts** (serve by the strength God provides)
- One purpose of gifts – **God's Glory**

1 Peter 4:11

11 Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

9 Spiritual Gifts:

1 Corinthians 12:8-10

❖ **Word of Wisdom**

❖ **Word of Knowledge**

❖ **Faith**

❖ **Healing**

❖ **Miracles**

❖ **Prophecy**

❖ **Discerning of spirits**

❖ **Kinds of Tongues**

❖ **Interpretation of Tongues**

Young's Literal Translation:

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 And concerning the spiritual things, brethren, I do not wish you to be ignorant; ² ye have known that ye were nations, unto the dumb idols -- as ye were led -- being carried away; ³ wherefore, I give you to understand that no one, in the Spirit of God speaking, saith Jesus *is* anathema, and no one is able to say Jesus *is* Lord, except in the Holy Spirit.

⁴ And there are diversities of gifts, and the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are diversities of ministrations, and the same Lord; ⁶ and there are diversities of workings, and it is the same God -- who is working the all in all. ⁷ And to each hath been given the manifestation of the Spirit for profit; ⁸ for to one through the Spirit hath been given a word of wisdom, and to another a word of knowledge, according to the same Spirit; ⁹ and to another faith in the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healings in the same Spirit; ¹⁰ and to another in-workings of mighty deeds; and to another prophecy; and to another discernings of spirits; and to another *divers* kinds of tongues; and to another interpretation of tongues: ¹¹ and all these doth work the one and the same Spirit, dividing to each severally as he intendeth.

Romans 12:6-8

7 Spiritual Gifts:

- ❖ Prophecy
- ❖ Service
- ❖ Teaching
- ❖ Exhortation
- ❖ Giving
- ❖ Leadership
- ❖ Mercy

Word for Word Translation:

But we have gifts according to the grace the giving to us differently. If prophecy – according the proportion of the faith. If service, in the service, if the one teaching, in the teaching, if the one exhorting, in the exhortation, the giving one in generosity, the leading one in diligence, the merciful one in cheerfulness.

1 Cor. 12 and Romans 12 Combined List of 15 Spiritual Gifts

Apostolic Sign Gifts	Speaking Gifts	Serving Gifts
Gifts of Healing	Prophecy	Service (Helps)
Effecting of miraculous powers	Kinds of Tongues	Mercy
	Interpretation of Tongues	Faith
	Teaching	Discernment (Distinguishing of human hearts/spirits)
	Exhortation	Giving
	Word of Wisdom	
	Word of Knowledge	
		Leadership (Administrations)

Spiritual Gifts for TODAY:

(9 Active Gifts)

Administrations (Speaking/Steering Gifts)	Helps (Serving/Assistance Gifts)
<p>Teaching (Elders/Pastors, Teachers, Parents/Children's & Youth Ministry)</p> <p>Exhortation (Pastor-Teachers, Evangelists, Disciplers, Counselors, Musicians, Parents)</p> <p>Wisdom (Pastors, Teachers, Disciplers, Counselors, Parents)</p>	<p>Service (Helps) (Deacons/Ministries)</p> <p>Giving (Financial Supporters)</p> <p>Mercy (Ministries to the Sick, Poor, Orphans, Widows, Elderly, Prisoners)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Leadership (Administrations) (Elders, Ministry Leaders – Hebrews 13:17)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Faith (Prayer, Colossians 4:2)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Discernment (Interpretation, Apologetics, Titus 1:9)</p>	

	Name	Description (Romans 12:8-10)
1.	Prophecy	profhtei,a propheteia (from <i>prophetes</i> - word for prophet) Inspired speaking, to forthtell or interpret divine messages for revealing truth
2.	Service (Deacons)	diakoni,a diakonia (from <i>diakonos</i> - word for deacon) To serve or minister for helping and meeting needs
3.	Teaching (Teachers)	dida,skw didasko (from <i>didaskolos</i> – word for teacher) To teach or to instruct for learning/applying truth/doctrine
4.	Exhortation (Disciplers, Counselors, Musicians/Arts)	parakale,w parakaleo (from <i>kaleo</i> – to call) To call alongside (urge, appeal, implore, plead), to encourage, to comfort for salvation, edification, or restoration of people
5.	Giving (Financial Supporters)	metadi,dwmi metadidomi (from <i>didomi</i> – to give) To give among, provide a share for material provision/blessing
6.	Leadership (Elders & Ministry Leaders)	proi<sthmi proistemi (from <i>histemi</i> – to stand, make stand) To stand before, lead, manage, rule so as to make imitators
7.	Mercy (Ministries to the Sick, Poor, Orphans, Widows, Elderly, Prisoners)	evlee,w eleeo (from <i>eleos</i> – mercy, pity, compassion) To show mercy, compassion, pity so as to express love/care

	Name	Description (1 Corinthians 12:8-10)
1.	Word of Wisdom	λόγος σοφίας: logos (word) sophias (of wisdom). Logos is a spoken word or message, divine revelation. Sophia is wisdom, insight, understanding, ability to use knowledge for correct behavior. Necessary in counseling to correct, encourage, and comfort – similar or same as exhortation
2.	Word of Knowledge	λόγος γνώσεως: logos (word) gnoseos (of knowledge). Gnosis is knowledge or information critical to have understanding. It is a result of divine revelation (logos) that enlightens us to know the truth and have sound doctrine. Similar to preaching/teaching but the word/message was derived directly by the Holy Spirit since the Canon of Scripture was not complete. 1 Corinthians 13:8-10 says this gift will cease.
3.	Faith	πίστις: pistis (faith). Faith is trust, confidence, reliance on someone/something, or commitment, conviction, or pledge, or content of what is essential to Christian belief and practice/sound doctrine. Necessary in faithful/expectant prayer for God to act or overcoming/persevering belief in the face of adversity that doesn't give up but stays faithful.
4.	Gifts of Healing	χαρίσματα ἰαμάτων: charismata (gifts) iamaton (of healings). Gifts are benefits/favors of God by grace - given or bestowed without regard to merit (undeserved). Healings are the divine power to cure, remedy, or make well again. Necessary in making the lame walk, blind see, and diseased cured. The closest modern parallel are those who pray for physical healing or the medicine/physicians who help people become physically well or whole.
5.	Works of Power	ἐνεργήματα δυνάμεων: energamata (works/effects) dunameon (of powers). Works are divine/supernatural acts that have been accomplished by divine energy/power. Necessary in casting out demons, controlling nature, or displaying wonders. The closest modern parallel are those who pray and fast for God to supernaturally free people from demonic oppression/possession or ask God to soften/save the souls of unbelievers.

6.	Prophecy	προφητεία: propheteia (prophecy). Inspired speaking, divine utterance revealing God's purposes/will, or divine prediction of future events. Necessary in teaching/instructing the early church without the completion of the New Testament. This is the only gift listed exactly the same from Romans 12:6-8 and 1 Cor. 13:8-10 says this gift will cease. This gift will be reestablished during the Tribulation (Joel 2) and the two witnesses/prophets (Revelation 11).
7.	Discernment (Distinguishing Spirits)	διακρίσεις πνευμάτων: diakriseis (judging/discerning) pneumaton (spirits). <i>Dia</i> means "through" and <i>krino</i> means "to judge or decide." Ability to judge, decide, evaluate, discern, or separate between spirits (from <i>pneo</i> meaning "to blow" like the wind). Necessary in discerning/separating all of Satan's religious counterfeits, substitutions, and additions to sound doctrine and infiltrations into the church. We still need to recognize false teachers, false converts, and false teaching in our churches today.
8.	Kinds of Tongues	γένη γλωσσών: gena (kinds) glosson (tongues/languages). Genos (descendent, family, ethnic group, race, nation – ex. subclass "genus" from kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, species). Glossa (tongue, language, verbal communication). Necessary for spreading the gospel to foreign peoples/languages. 1 Cor. 14:22 says that tongues are a sign for unbelievers. 1 Cor. 14:27-28 says tongues if practiced must be interpreted (so people know what is people said) and should be done one at a time. 1 Cor.13:8-10 says this gift will cease.
9.	Interpreting Tongues	ἐρμηνεία γλωσσών: ermaneia (interpretation) glosson (of tongues/languages). Interpretation is translating, explaining what is said in a foreign language so that it is intelligible and can be understood by the listener. We get the word "hermeneutics" (to translate) from this word as it is the translation/interpretation of Scripture. If speaking in tongues ceases in 1 Cor. 13:8-10 than also the need to interpret such tongues.

Crawl, Walk, Run, PLANT!

- **Pray and Plan** – Thursdays Calvert Campus, 6:30-8:30p
- **Crawl** – Start 9:00 Service at Calvert Campus (Sep. 10, 2023)
 - Leadership/Plurality of Elders, Target Area/Need, Facility/Location, Committed Core – 1 Year Commitment, Key Positions filled, ***
Established Doctrinal Statement, Philosophy of Ministry,
Constitution/By-Laws, Legal Documents/501C3, Start Up Finances
- **Walk** – Add Sunday School Classes, Mid-week Home Groups
- **Run** – Add Ministries (men's, women's, youth, childrens/vbs) and add paid staff
- **PLANT!** – Calvert Campus becomes independent /autonomous of the mother church when... 1) Their own Lead Pastor in place (seminary trained), 2) Their own Plurality of Elders and Deacons, 3) Financially Independent from the mother church

Calvert Campus 9:00 Service Positions Needed: **starting September 10, 2023**

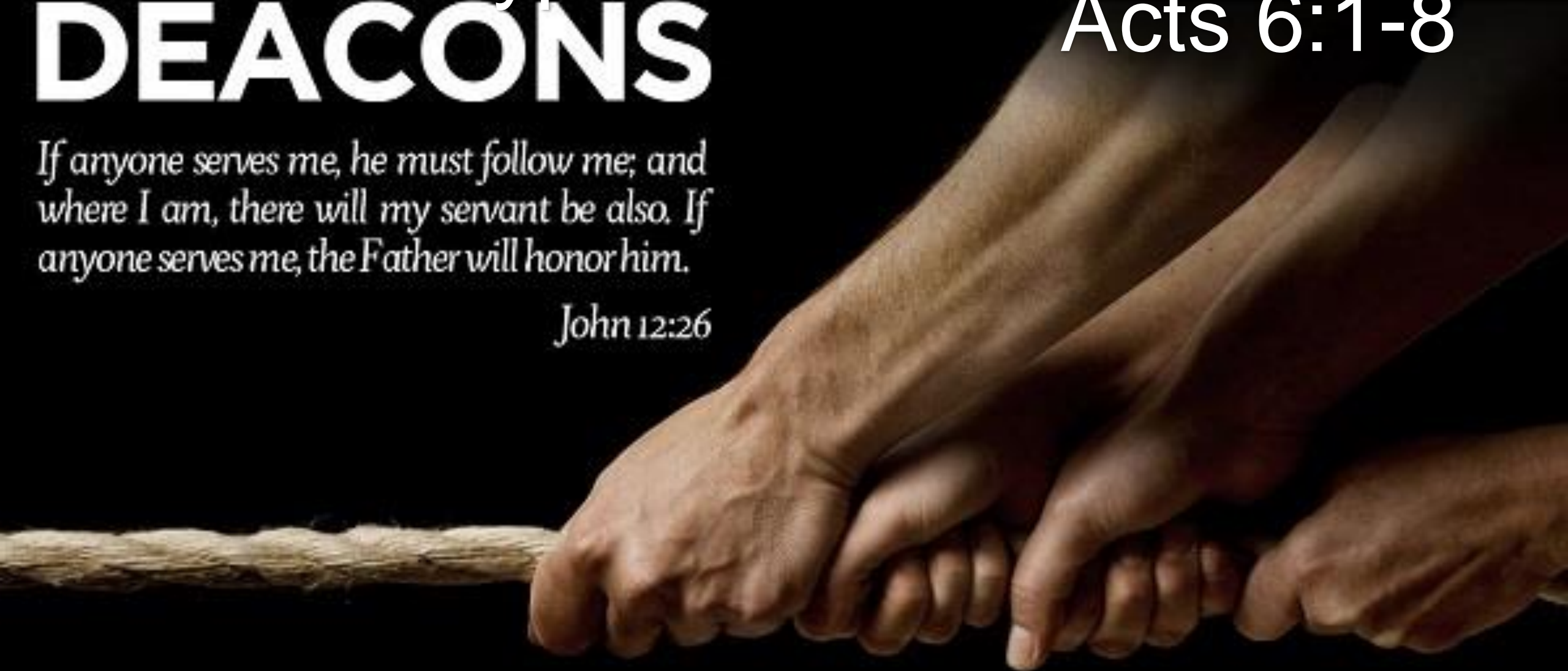
1. Security
2. Greeters/Ushers
3. Hospitality (Coffee, Food, Fellowship Meals)
4. Tech Team (Video, Livestream, Lyrics)
5. Sound Team
6. Music/Worship Team (auditions required)
7. Gospel Preachers (TBC Men sharing the Gospel / Mini Sermon)
8. Nursery
9. Children's Church
10. Sunday School Teachers
11. Cleaning
12. Maintenance/Campus Improvement (decorating, painting, projects, etc.)

The Prototype **DEACONS**

Acts 6:1-8

If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

John 12:26



Acts 6:1-8 Translation/Transliteration

Ἐν δὲ ταῖς ἡμέραις ταύταις πληθυνόντων τῶν μαθητῶν

in now the days these was multiplying the disciples

ἐγένετο γογγυσμὸς τῶν Ἑλληνιστῶν πρὸς τοὺς Ἑβραίους, ὅτι

there became grumbling/murmuring the Hellenist (Gentile Christians) towards the Hebrews that
muttering/complaining (Jewish Christians) because

παρεθεωροῦντο ἐν τῇ διακονίᾳ τῇ καθημερινῇ αἱ χῆραι

overlooked/neglected in the service/ministry the daily the widow

αὐτῶν. ² προσκαλεσάμενοι δὲ οἱ δώδεκα τὸ πλῆθος τῶν

of them having summoned but the twelve the multitude of the

μαθητῶν εἶπαν· οὐκ ἄρεστόν ἐστιν ἡμᾶς καταλείψαντας τὸν

disciples said not pleasing/desireable to us having left the

Acts 6:1-8 Translation/Transliteration

λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ διακονεῖν τραπέζαις. ³ ἐπισκέψασθε δέ,

word of the God to serve tables you all shall see to it/select but

ἀδελφοί, ἄνδρας ἐξ ὑμῶν μαρτυρουμένους ἑπτὰ, πλήρεις

brothers men from/out of you all witnessing/testifying seven full

πνεύματος καὶ σοφίας, οὓς καταστήσομεν ἐπὶ τῆς χρείας

of the spirit and wisdom which we will set over the need

ταύτης, ⁴ ἡμεῖς δὲ τῇ προσευχῇ καὶ τῇ διακονίᾳ τοῦ λόγου

of these we but the prayer and the service of the Word

προσκαρτερήσομεν. ⁵ καὶ ἤρεσεν ὁ λόγος ἐνώπιον παντὸς

we will continue and pleased the word before everyone/all

Acts 6:1-8 Translation/Transliteration

τοῦ πλήθους καὶ ἐξελέξαντο Στέφανον, ἄνδρα πλήρης

of the multitude and they choose Stephanon a man full

πίστεως καὶ πνεύματος ἁγίου, καὶ Φίλιππον καὶ Πρόχορον

of faith and (the) of spirit holy and Philippon and Prochoron

καὶ Νικάνορα καὶ Τίμωνα καὶ Παρμενᾶν καὶ Νικόλαον

and Nikanora and Timona and Parmenan and Nikolaon

προσήλυτον Ἀντιοχέα, ⁶ οὓς ἔστησαν ἐνώπιον τῶν

a proselyte/convert (from) Antioch which causing to stand before the

ἀποστόλων, καὶ προσευξάμενοι ἐπέθηκαν αὐτοῖς τὰς χεῖρας.

apostles and having prayed they laid on them the hands

Acts 6:1-8 Translation/Transliteration

⁷ Καὶ ὁ λόγος τοῦ θεοῦ ἠΰξανεν καὶ ἐπληθύνετο ὁ ἀριθμὸς
and the Word of the God grew/increased and multiply the number
τῶν μαθητῶν ἐν Ἱερουσαλήμ σφόδρα, πολὺς τε ὄχλος τῶν
of the disciples in Jerusalem exceedingly many and a crowd of the
ἱερέων ὑπήκουον τῇ πίστει. ⁸ Στέφανος δὲ πλήρης χάριτος
priests became obedient (to) the faith. Stephanos but full of grace
καὶ δυνάμεως ἐποίει τέρατα καὶ σημεῖα μεγάλα ἐν τῷ λαῷ.
and power he was doing wonders and signs great among the people.

Literal Translation/Transliteration of Acts 6:1-8

Now in these days the disciples were multiplying (and) there became grumbling (from) the Hellenists towards the Hebrews because their widows were overlooked in the daily service. But the twelve having summoned the multitude of the disciples they said “It is not desirable for us having left the word of the God to serve tables. But you all shall see to it brothers men from out of you all testifying seven full of the spirit and wisdom which we will set over the need of these. But we will continue (in) the prayer and the service of the Word. And the word pleased before/with everyone of the multitude 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 Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, which causing to stand before the Apostles and having prayed they laid on them the hands. And the Word of God grew and multiplied greatly the number of the disciples in Jerusalem. (And) many from the crowd of the priests became obedient (to) the faith. But Stephen was full of grace and grower and was doing wonders and great signs among the people.

Sermon Outline:

Acts 6:1-8 teaches us 7 Biblical Principles regarding:

1. How to biblically handle **complaints** in the church
(conflict resolution/problem solving)
2. How to biblically **lead** the church
(Biblical roles of Elders and Deacons and the Members of the Congregation)
3. How to biblically **take care** of the physical needs of our people
(benevolence)
4. How to biblically **select** new church leaders (prototype Deacons)
5. How to biblically **grow** as a church (Church Growth)
6. How to biblically **reach** even the most resistant people (religious but not saved)
7. How to biblically **serve** and **imitate** godly & powerful men (Ex. Stephen)

1. How to biblically handle **complaints** in the church

(conflict resolution/problem solving)

Acts 6:1 Now at this time while the disciples were increasing *in number*, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic *Jews* against the *native* Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving *of food*.

- **Complaint** - γογγυσμός *goggusmos*: a muttering, murmuring (root: γογγύζω *gogguzo*: *to mutter, murmur*)

Verses with this word: Exodus 16:7-9, 12; Numbers 17:20, 25; Ps. Sol. 5:13; 16:11; Isaiah 58:9; John 7:12; Acts 6:1; *Philippians 2:14; 1 *Peter 4:9

- **Philippians 2:14-16** ¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing; ¹⁵ so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast the word of life...
- **1 Peter 4:9** ⁹ Be hospitable to one another without complaint.

1. How to biblically handle **complaints** in the church

(conflict resolution/problem solving)

γογγυσμός *goggusmos*

Meaning: a muttering, murmuring

5 Biblical Ways/Stages to Address Complaints in the Church:

- a. **Colossians 3** it – if preference/non-sin issues... overlook it with grace, forbearance, and love (love covers over/protects not exposes – Prov. 10:12, 1 Peter 4:8)

Colossians 3:12-14 ¹² So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. ¹⁴ Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

1. How to biblically handle **complaints** in the church

(conflict resolution/problem solving)

5 Biblical Ways/Stages to Address Complaints in the Church:

b. Matthew 5-7 it – no matter if a preference or sin issue...**pray about it** and first examine your own heart, motives, and actions from God's perspective and from the other person's viewpoint, but always with a humble attitude to forgive as the Lord has already forgiven us.

Matthew 5:44 ⁴⁴ "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Matthew 6:12-15 Pray in this way...¹² 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. *For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen .* ¹⁴ "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ "But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

Matthew 7:1-5 "Do not judge so that you will not be judged. ² "For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. ³ "Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴ "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? ⁵ "You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

1. How to biblically handle **complaints** in the church

(conflict resolution/problem solving)

5 Biblical Ways/Stages to Address Complaints in the Church:

c. Romans 12 it – if continues to hinder the relationship - address it by going to the person one to one/privately *before*/without talking about the person or the problem with others in order to pursue the highest level of reconciliation possible by seeking clarification, talking out any miscommunication, and working out any misunderstandings. ***Keep the circle of the problem as small as possible (who is part of the problem and the solution)

Romans 12:10-18 ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; ¹¹ not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, ¹³ contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. ¹⁷ Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

Matthew 5:23-24 ²³ "Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

1. How to biblically handle complaints in the church

5 Biblical Ways/Stages to Address Complaints in the Church:

d. **Acts 6 it** – if it's a church problem that is hurting the church or those in the church but not necessarily a sin issue by an individual - let the Elders know about it (take any complaints or problems in the church to the Elders so they can address and solve the problem or work on the weakness)

- The Elders should address and fix any problems quickly, in a timely matter
- The Elders obviously met and reached unanimity in how to address and fix the problem (notice they did not ignore, deny or downplay the problem but acknowledged it and quickly worked to fix it)
- The Elders involved/consulted the entire congregation for their collective wisdom in order to arrive at the best solution
- The Elders delegated the action phase to others, the work/service to godly/spiritual men not only to bring about the best solution for the church but also to protect their service/ministry/calling to prioritize prayer and the teaching of the Word
- The delegated authority of the Elders was bestowed only after Elders prayed and established specific SPIRITUAL qualifications/criteria (Ex. Titus 1 / 1 Tim. 3)
- The Elders have the final authority in the church as the decision makers of the church by selecting seven prototype deacons by the laying on of their hands

Acts 6:1-4 Now at this time while the disciples were increasing *in number*, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the *native* Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of *food*.² So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables."³ "Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task."⁴ "But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

1. How to biblically handle **complaints** in the church

(conflict resolution/problem solving)

5 Biblical Ways/Stages to Address Complaints in the Church:

e. **Matthew 18 it** – if it's an obvious sin issue, confront it, but it must be a clear action against a clear Scripture with clear evidence) follow the 4 steps of Matthew 18:15-17

- Go 1 to 1 to seek their repentance and restoration (protect their reputation)
- Confirm with 2 or 3 witnesses to seek their repentance and restoration (evidence/confirmation)
- Tell it to the church in order for the weight/power of the entire church to urgently call them to repentance with motivation of restoration not repudiation
- Remove them from the church (protect the reputation/holiness of the church) and evangelize them as an unbeliever

Matthew 18:15-17 ¹⁵ "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. ¹⁶ "But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED. ¹⁷ "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

James 5:19-20 ¹⁹ My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, ²⁰ let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

2. How to biblically **lead** the church (Biblical roles of Elders and Deacons and the Congregation)

Acts 6:2-4 ² So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. ³ "Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. ⁴ "But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

The Elders two main priorities must be and must remain/continue to be:

1. **Prayer** προσευχή *proseuche*: prayer, Origin: προσεύχομαι *proseuchomai*: to pray, Root πρόσ *pros*: to, towards AND εὐχομαι *euchomai*: to pray

2. **Ministry of the Word** διακονία *diakonia*: service, ministry, Root: διάκονος *diakonos*: a servant, minister, λόγος *logos*: a word (as embodying an idea), a statement, a speech, a message (divine message), Root: λέγω *lego*: to say (what God has to say to us – divine revelation)

Acts 6:4 τῇ διακονίᾳ τοῦ λόγου (lit. the service/ministry of the Word)

Biblical Qualifications of an Elder

- **Titus 1:5-9** ⁵ For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, ⁶ *namely*, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. ⁷ For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, ⁸ but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, ⁹ holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.
- **1 Timothy 3:1-7** It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires *to do*. ² An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money. ⁴ *He must be* one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity ⁵ (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), ⁶ *and* not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. ⁷ And he must have a good reputation with those outside *the church*, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

- **Paul's Example of a Good Elder**

Acts 20:18-27 "You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰ how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, ²¹ solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²² "And now, behold, bound in spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. ²⁴ "But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵ "And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face. ²⁶ "Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. ²⁷ "For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.

- **Peter's Example of a Biblical Elder:**

1 Peter 5:1-4 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as *your* fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, ² shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of* God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; ³ nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

The Primary Difference between the Elders & Deacons: **Teaching/Preaching**

Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons:

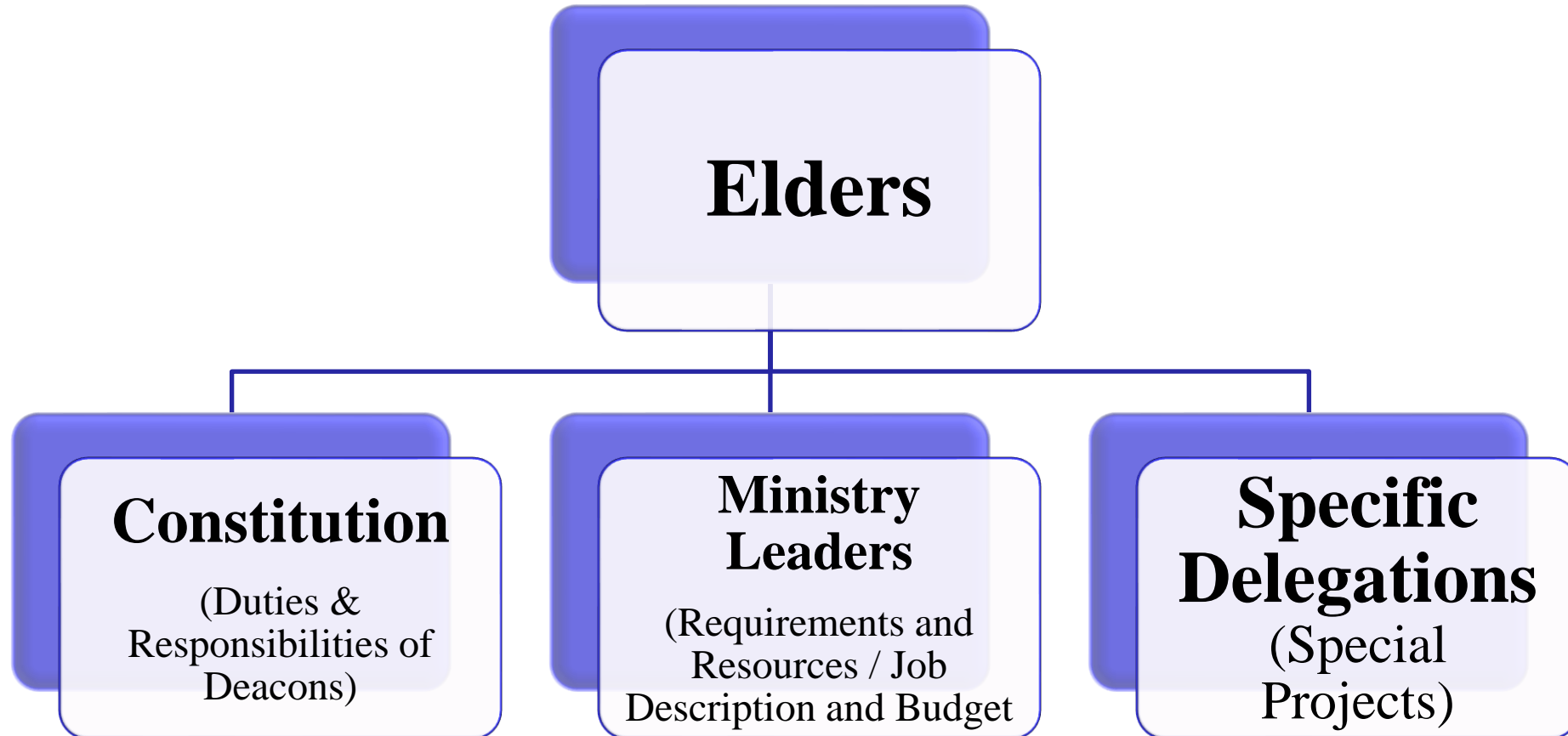
- **Elders** (presbuteros) are the Pastors/shepherds (poimen), overseers (episkopos), preachers (Kerux/heralds who kerusso/proclaim God's Word) and teachers (didaskalos), administrators (kebernesis/steering, govern) who are the decision makers of the church
- **Deacons/servants** (diakonos) are the helpers (antilempsis, sunergeo), model servants who exemplify to the members/congregation how to sacrificially and faithfully serve within the church by assisting the Elders to execute/enact their decisions and protect the Elders time to devote themselves to prayer and to the study/teaching/preaching of the Word of God.
- **1 Corinthians 12:28** ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, *various* kinds of tongues.
- **1 Peter 4:11** ¹¹ Whoever speaks, *is to do so* as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves *is to do so* as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Spiritual Gifts for TODAY:

(9 Active Gifts)

<p style="text-align: center;">Administrations (Speaking/Steering Gifts)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Helps (Serving/Assistance Gifts)</p>
<p>Teaching (Elders/Pastors, Teachers, Parents/Children's & Youth Ministry)</p> <p>Exhortation (Pastor-Teachers, Evangelists, Disciplers, Counselors, Musicians, Parents)</p> <p>Wisdom (Pastors, Teachers, Disciplers, Counselors, Parents)</p>	<p>Service (Helps) (Deacons/Ministries)</p> <p>Giving (Financial Supporters)</p> <p>Mercy (Ministries to the Sick, Poor, Orphans, Widows, Elderly, Prisoners)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Leadership (Administrations) (Elders, Ministry Leaders – Hebrews 13:17)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Faith (Prayer, Colossians 4:2)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Discernment (Interpretation, Apologetics, Titus 1:9)</p>	

3 Avenues of Delegation from the Elders to the Deacons



TBC Constitution - Article VI: Deacon Board

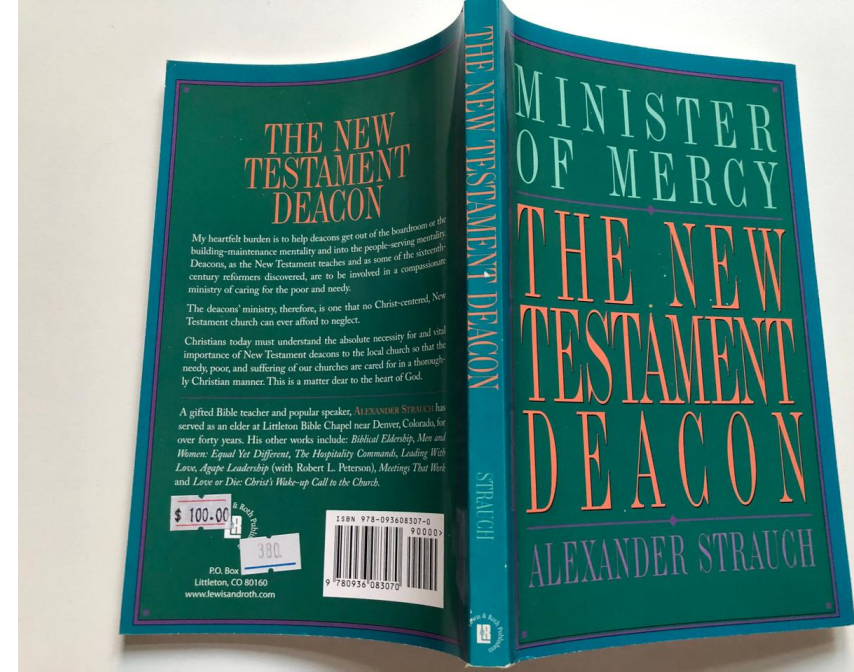
- Must be Faithful Members
- Must be Biblically Qualified Men (1 Timothy 3:8-13)
- Must be Willing to serve in the function/role/responsibilities of a Deacon
- Must complete the Deacon Candidate Process

Biblical Qualifications for a Deacon

- **1 Timothy 3:8-13** ⁸ Deacons likewise *must be* men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, ⁹ *but* holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach. ¹¹ Women *must* likewise *be* dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. ¹² Deacons must be husbands of *only* one wife, *and* good managers of *their* children and their own households. ¹³ For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

TBC Deacon Training Process

- Initial Identification by the Elders (who is a faithful member setting the example of service for the church?)
- Training by the Elders (The New Testament Deacon by Alexander Strauch)
- Evaluation by the Elders and Congregation (Personal Evaluation, Spouse Evaluation, Congregational Evaluation, Elder Evaluation)
- Approval of new Deacons by the Elders (Unanimity/Prayer)
- Appointment of new Deacons by the Elders (laying on of hands)



Our 8 Current Deacons

- **Josh Wort** (Head Deacon, Tech, Ushers/Greeters, Home Group Host and Teacher)
- **Mark Summerlin** (Music/Worship Leader, Home Group Host)
- **Jake Waite** (Awana, Youth, P.F. Church Plant, Home Group Teacher)
- **Jim Hunt** (Treasurer / Sports Ministry)
- **Joe Trossbach** (Set Up/Tear Down, Maintenance, Home Group Host)
- **Joey Bellerose** (Tech, Benevolence)
- **Steve Canon** (Set up/Tear Down, Ushers, Missions)
- **Dan Ensminger** (Children's Ministry, Home Group Teacher)

3. How to biblically **take care** of our own people and their physical needs (benevolence)

Acts 6:1 widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food.

- **Fairness** – there should be no racial, educational, or economic bias or unfairness in the church (Ex. Hellenist/Gentile Christians vs Hebrews/Jewish Christians)
- **Commitment** - We are committed at TBC that no member of TBC ever be in need of food, clothing, and shelter. (We are committed FIRST and FOREMOST to the brethren/members of our church and then as able to meeting the physical needs of others as an expression of love and testimony to the Biblical gospel, but never enabling/always requiring references, counseling requirements, work requirements, and church requirements)

Acts 2:44-45 ⁴⁴ And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ and they *began* selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.

2 Thessalonians 3:10-13 ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either. ¹¹ For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. ¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread. ¹³ But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good.

James 1:27 ²⁷ Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of *our* God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, *and* to keep oneself unstained by the world.

1 John 3:16-18 ¹⁶ We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. ¹⁷ But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

4. How to biblically **select** new church leaders (Prototype Deacons) (Church leaders/Deacons must be spiritual not just reputable)

Acts 6:3 ³ "Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task."

- **Select** - ἐπισκέπτομαι *episkeptomai*: to inspect, by ext. *to go to see*,
Origin: σκοπός *skopos*: a watchman, a mark (on which to fix the eye)
Root: from σκέπτομαι *skeptomai* (*to look carefully, consider*)
- ✓ **Good reputation** (*lit. well testified of*) μαρτυρέω *martureo*: to bear witness, testify
- ✓ **Full of the Spirit and Wisdom** - πλήρεις πνεύματος καὶ σοφίας (πνεῦμα *pneuma*: wind, spirit, σοφία *sophia*: skill, wisdom)
- ✓ **Able to lead** – *put in charge of this task (lit. appointed to this need)* - καθίστημι *kathistemi*: to set in order, appoint, χρεία *chreia*: need, task, business

Ex. Stephen – Acts 6:5, 6:8

- ✓ **man full of faith** (πίστις *pistis*: faith, faithfulness) **and of the Holy Spirit**
- ✓ **full of grace** (χάρις *charis*: grace, kindness) **and power** (δύναμις *dunamis*: (miraculous) power, might, strength)
- *Was doing great wonders* (τέρας *teras*: a wonder, marvel) **and signs** (σημεῖον *semeion*: a sign)

5. How to biblically **grow** as a church (Church Growth)

Acts 6:1 Now at this time while the disciples were increasing *in number*,

Acts 6:7 ⁷ The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem,

The early church grew/multiplied greatly because of:

1. God's Grace, Will, and Power - God ultimately gave the increase for His own honor, glory, and perfect will
2. The Early Church's Obedience - They were prayerful, wordful (full of the Word) and ultimately FAITHFUL (especially in evangelism/the Great Commission, to be His witnesses/ambassadors to the world

Acts 1:8 ⁸ but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." (Mt. 25:21-23 "well done, good and faithful slave.")

6. How to biblically **reach** even the most resistant people (the religious but not saved)

Acts 6:7 ⁷ The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

What convinced the crowd of priests to believe in Jesus/convert from the legalism of Judaism to the grace of Christianity? Probably not one thing but the collect testimony and witness of:

1. Undeniable Truth/Fact-based Faith - they realized that Jesus did fulfill all of their O.T. Scriptures

Matthew 5:17-18 ¹⁷ "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

Acts 3:18 ¹⁸ "But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.

Acts 9:22 ²² But Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this *Jesus* is the Christ.

Acts 17:2-3 reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and *saying*, "This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ."

Acts 18:28 ²⁸ for he (Apollos) powerfully refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

6. How to biblically **reach** even the most resistant people (the religious but not saved)

Acts 6:7 ⁷ The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

What convinced the crowd of priests to believe in Jesus/convert from the legalism of Judaism to the grace of Christianity? Probably not one thing but the collect testimony and witness of:

2. Real Love and Life Change/Obedience – they saw the real love, grace, compassion, and kindness/care that the N.T. church had towards meeting the needs of its own and even outsiders and it was attractive and compelling

John 13:34-35 ³⁴ "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 14:21-23 ²¹ "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him." ...²³ Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him."

1 John 2:3-5 ³ By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments...⁵ but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:

1 John 4:12 if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

6. How to biblically **reach** even the most resistant people (the religious but not saved)

Acts 6:7 ⁷ The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

What convinced the crowd of priests to believe in Jesus/convert from the legalism of Judaism to the grace of Christianity? Probably not one thing but the collect testimony and witness of:

3. Supernatural Power from God –they saw signs, wonders, and miracles and believed because they knew that God was at work/doing these miracles as evidence/proof of Jesus (Lord, Christ) and His gospel.

John 2:23 ²³ Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing.

John 3:2 ² this man (Nicodemus) came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

John 10:36-38 I said, 'I am the Son of God '? ³⁷ "If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; ³⁸ but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father."

Acts 4:16 "What shall we do with these men? For the fact that a noteworthy miracle has taken place through them is apparent to all who live in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it.

Acts 2:22 ²² "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know—

Acts 10:38 ³⁸ " *You know of* Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and *how* He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

7. How to biblically **serve** and **imitate** powerful men like Stephen

Acts 6:5 Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit ... **Acts 6:8-10** ⁸ And Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people. ...¹⁰ But they were unable to cope with the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.

Stephen was filled FULL of the Holy Spirit – Acts 6:5, 6:8

- ✓ **Full of faith** (πίστις *pistis*: faith, faithfulness)
- ✓ **Full of the Holy Spirit** (πνεῦμα *pneuma*: wind) (ἅγιος *hagios*: sacred, holy)
- ✓ **Full of grace** (χάρις *charis*: grace, kindness) **and power** (δύναμις *dunamis*: (miraculous) power, might, strength)
- ✓ **Full of wisdom** (σοφία *sophia*: skill, wisdom)

SO WHAT?

Application



Are you FULL of God Spirit and Power through Prayer?

Are you FULL of God's TRUTH and wisdom through His Word?

Are you Full of Faith and Grace because you are spending quality time with Jesus and becoming more like Him?

Or are you empty – little power because of little prayer, little wisdom because of little Word, little faith and little grace because you spend little time with Jesus?

Lord help me, help TBC be FAITHFUL!

2 Timothy 2:1-2 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Matthew 24:45-46 ⁴⁵ "Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶ "Blessed is that slave whom