

The Commissioning of Deacons

✘ Acts 6:5-6 – “And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.”

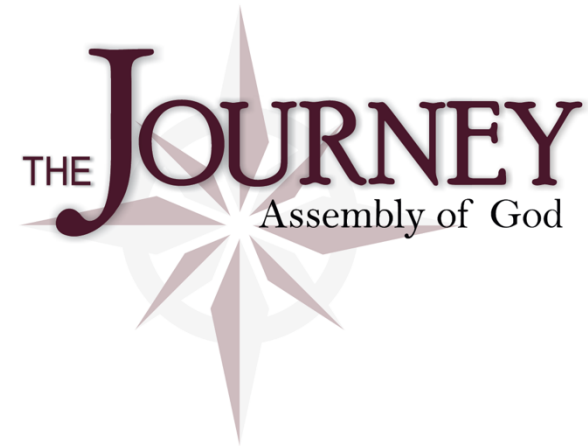


✘ Acts 6:7 – “Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.”

A Prayer of Blessing For Our
DEACONS

Endnotes:

- ¹ Horton, Stanley M., *Acts – A Logion Press Commentary* (Gospel Publishing House, Springfield, MO, 2001), p.134 Footnote #4.
- ² Scott, Jeff, *The Responsibilities of Deacons (Acts 6:1-7)*, (Online Resource: <https://truthappliedis.com/the-responsibilities-of-deacons-acts-61-7/>, December 5, 2022, (Accessed 9-23-2025).
- ³ Got Questions? *What are the responsibilities of deacons in the church?* (Online Resource: <https://www.gotquestions.org/deacons-church.html>, (Accessed 9-23-2025).
- ⁴ Storms, Sam, *10 Things You Should Know about Deacons in the New Testament*, (Online Resource: <https://www.samstorms.org/enjoying-god-blog/post/10-things-you-should-know-about-deacons-in-the-new-testament>, February 25, 2019, (Accessed 9-23-2025).
- ⁵ Ibid.



MESSAGE GUIDE

Speaker: Pastor Mark Geer
Sunday: September 28, 2025



Message Guide

Date: September 28, 2025

Speaker: Pastor Mark Geer

Today's Message:

SERIES: THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A Study of the Early Church With Contemporary Application

"The Ministry of Deacons – Quality Leadership Chosen to Serve"

Text: Acts 6:1-7

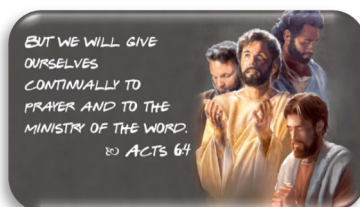
"The Ministry of Deacons"

It's All About "Serving" One Another

- ✧ It's not just Pastors & Deacons whom God is calling to serve one another, but all of us. So this message really applies to all of us!

Text: Acts 6:1-7 – Seven Chosen to Serve

- ✧ v.3 – "Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you **seven men** of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business."
- ✧ v.7 – "Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith."



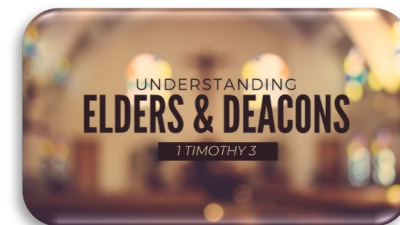
Good Things Come As A Result of Quality Leadership and The Ministry of Deacons

- ✧ Note Acts 6:1 and 6:7 – The Word of God spread, growth & conversion.



The Ministry of Deacons

- ✧ The need arose out of a complaint (**γογγυσμός** – a grumbling) ¹ – the Greek widows were being neglected in the daily distribution (v.1).
- ✧ The Twelve Apostles responded addressing the critical roles of ministry within the church...
 - ✧ The Role of Apostles (aka, elders, bishops, pastors) (vv.2, 4). [See also 1 Tim. 4:1-2; 1 Peter 5:1-4; 1 Timothy 3:1]
 - They oversee the doctrine of the church.
 - They oversee the direction of the church.
 - They oversee the depth of the church. ²
 - The Elder has ruling / governing authority (1 Thess. 5:12-13; 1 Tim. 3:4-5; 5:17-18; Titus 1:5-9; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:1-4)
 - ✧ The Role of Deacons (**διακονέω** – to serve / "through the dirt") ³ (vv.3, 5). [See also Rom. 16:1; Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:8, 12-13]
 - Facilities, Benevolence, Finances, Ushers, Logistics, Serving the needs of the church body. ⁴
 - They address complaints.
 - They show concern.
 - They encourage the leadership of the church. ⁵



The Qualifications of Deacons

- ✧ Acts 6:3 – "Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you **seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit** and **wisdom**, whom we may appoint over this business."
- ✧ The Qualifications for Elders / Bishops / Pastors (1 Tim. 3:1-7).
- ✧ The Qualifications of Deacons (1 Timothy 3:8-13).
 - Concerning Women Serving as a Deaconess – See Rom. 16:1 where the term is used for **Phoebe** in the church of Cenchrea.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

For The Week of Sept. 28 – Oct. 3, 2025

SERIES: THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A Study of the Early Church With Contemporary Application

"The Ministry of Deacons – Quality Leadership Chosen to Serve"

Acts 6:1-7

"The Ministry of Deacons"

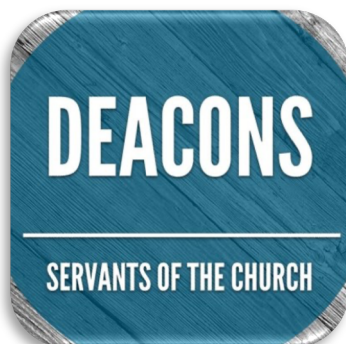
It's All About "Serving" One Another

- ✧ On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being the best), how would you rate our local church when it comes to the member serving one another?
- 0-2 – I rarely see it and wonder why there isn't more care for others.
- 3-5 – I have seen it now & then, but I wouldn't say it is our culture.
- 6-7 – I see it often and recognize just how meaningful it is for people.
- 9-10 – I see it all the time & it amazes me how motivated people are!

Definition of a Deacon: Acts 6:1-7

– Seven Chosen to Serve

- ✧ After re-reading the text above, using your own words – write a definition that describes the ministry of a "Deacon."



The Ministry of Deacons

- 1) Do you occasionally hear complaints (γογγυσμός – grumblings) rise up within the congregation about things they are concerned about?
- 2) What do you think was happening in the Early Church that gave rise to the ministry of Deacons? (See Acts 6:1)
- 3) What was the response of the Twelve Apostles? (See Acts 6:2-4)
 - ✧ Do you feel that the Apostles were unwilling to serve in menial tasks? (Consider what Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12).
 - ✧ How do you see the role of deacons serving in our church here at The Journey?



The Qualifications of Deacons

- 1) Why do you feel these qualifications stipulated by the Apostles were important for deacons in the Early Church and for the 21st Century?
 - ✧ Acts 6:3 – "Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you **seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit** and **wisdom**, whom we may appoint over this business."
- 2) What other qualifications both for both pastors (elders) and / or deacons listed by Paul in his letters to Timothy and Titus stand out to you as very important for us here in the 21st Century?
 - ✧ See 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Titus 1:5-9.

The Commissioning of Deacons

- 1) Have you ever been a part of a service where deacons were commissioned?
- 2) If so, what did you think about it?
- 3) Why do you think this step in Acts 6:5-6 was important?

