**GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES** **(**April 7, 2024)
FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY

Every church has a 'complaint dept.'—it is the place where the folks come to voice concerns; sometimes it gets out of hand. In today's text we see the early church handling a complaint in the power of the spirit. There were essentially two cultures living as one in the infant church we see developing in the book of Acts. Some church people were Greek speaking folks who had come to Jerusalem for Pentecost and now were staying as they learned to walk in the way of Jesus. The other group was composed of Aramaic speaking Hebrews who were native to Israel. The church was one in Spirit (we saw this back in Acts 2) They were growing in faith and active in serving one another—they were one family in Jesus even though they had cultural differences. That oneness is in danger when it seems that the widow's in the Hellenistic (Greek) cultural group were being neglected. This problem was faced in a way which kept the church unified.

This Sunday we look at how the Spirit kept them one in as they established ministry priorities.

**The Holy Spirit at Work in the Complaint Dept** (Acts 6:1-7) ESV

6 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. 2 And 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. 3 Therefore, 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. 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." 5 And 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. 6 These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

7 And 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.

**Notes**

As you spend time praying, remember that prayer is meant to be the most natural part of your day. Prayer is a conversation: talking to God and listening to God. Thank God for the gift of His Holy Spirit. Ask God to speak to you, to provide wisdom, to guide you your decisions. Ask God to help you seek Him first. Ask God for the counsel of other Christians. God will speak to you by His Holy Spirit, through others, through the Bible, because He loves you.