



**Acts 6:1-7**, *But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food. <sup>2</sup> So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. They said, “We apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, not running a food program. <sup>3</sup> And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility. <sup>4</sup> Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word.” <sup>5</sup> Everyone liked this idea, and they chose the following: Stephen (a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit), Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas of Antioch (an earlier convert to the Jewish faith). <sup>6</sup> These seven were presented to the apostles, who prayed for them as they laid their hands on them. <sup>7</sup> So God’s message continued to spread. The number of believers*

*greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too.*

## I. Godly elders are the navigation system. 1 Timothy 3:1-7

**1 Timothy 3:1-7**, *This saying is trustworthy: “If anyone aspires to be an overseer, he desires a noble work.” <sup>2</sup> An overseer, therefore, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, self-controlled, sensible, respectable, hospitable, an able teacher, <sup>3</sup> not addicted to wine, not a bully but gentle, not quarrelsome, not greedy— <sup>4</sup> one who manages his own household competently, having his children under control with all dignity. <sup>5</sup> (If anyone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of God’s church?) <sup>6</sup> He must not be a new convert, or he might become conceited and fall into the condemnation of the Devil. <sup>7</sup> Furthermore, he must have a good reputation among outsiders, so that he does not fall into disgrace and the Devil’s trap.*

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A. He must be a man who desires to be a leader. 1 Timothy 3:1

**B. He must be above reproach**

**C. He must be able to teach.**

**D. He must not be a lover of money**

**E. He must manage his own house well.**

**1 Timothy 3:8-13, Deacons, likewise, should be worthy of respect, not hypocritical, not drinking a lot of wine, not greedy for money,<sup>9</sup> holding the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.<sup>10</sup> And they must also be tested first; if they prove blameless, then they can serve as deacons.<sup>11</sup> Wives, too, must be worthy of respect, not slanderers, self-controlled, faithful in everything.<sup>12</sup> Deacons must be husbands of one wife, managing their children and their own households competently.<sup>13</sup> For those who have served well as deacons acquire a good standing for themselves, and great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.**

**II. Godly deacons are the ground crew. 1**

**Timothy 3:8-13**

**A. They must be dignified.**

**B. They must be men of honesty.**

**C. They must not be new Christians.**

**D. They serve with clean hands and clean hearts.**

**1 Timothy 3:13, Those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and great confidence in the faith.**

**III. Lift off happens when everybody mans their station.**

**Ephesians 4:11-12, ...to equip the saints for the work of ministry.**

**A. Attendance at the launch pad is crucial.**

**Hebrews 10:24-25**

**B. Giving provides fuel for ministry.**

**C. Serving elevates the mission for lift-off.**

**D. Growth through evangelism becomes inevitable.** Acts 6:7