



Heart  
*for His*  
House

## **1 John 3:16**

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

## **Acts 6:1-7**

In those days when the number of disciples was **increasing**, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

2 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.

3 Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them 4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word..."

5 This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. 6 They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

7 So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem **increased** rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

# **1. Understand Our Mission**

## **Challenges of persecution**

(Acts 4: Brought before the council)

## **Challenge of the purity of the church**

(Acts 5: Ananias and Sapphira)

## **Challenge of Growth**

(Acts 6: Serving the people)

## **Matthew 16:18 (NLT)**

Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.

## **1 Timothy 2:1-4**

I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. 2 Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. 3 **This is good and pleases God our Savior,** 4 **who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.**



Luke is eager to show that this administrative change did not reduce the evangelistic fervor of the church. So he adds another of his reports of evangelistic effectiveness (v. 7). The book of Acts is like a long hymn interspersed with refrains like this, which report on the spread of the church. Luke wants us to catch the spirit of this consuming passion for evangelism.

**-Ajith Fernando**

## **Acts 1:8**

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

## **Mark 10:28-31**

Then Peter began to speak up. “We’ve given up everything to follow you,” he said. 29 “Yes,” Jesus replied, “and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for my sake and for the Good News, 30 will receive now in return a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property—along with persecution. And in the world to come that person will have eternal life. 31 But many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then.”

## **2. Have a Heart for the House**

## **Acts 6:8-10**

Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed amazing miracles and signs among the people. 9 But one day some men from the Synagogue of Freed Slaves, as it was called, started to debate with him. They were Jews from Cyrene, Alexandria, Cilicia, and the province of Asia. 10 None of them could stand against the wisdom and the Spirit with which Stephen spoke.

## **Acts 8:5-8**

Philip, for example, went to the city of Samaria and told the people there about the Messiah. 6 Crowds listened intently to Philip because they were eager to hear his message and see the miraculous signs he did. 7 Many evil spirits were cast out, screaming as they left their victims. And many who had been paralyzed or lame were healed. 8 So there was great joy in that city.

Extraordinary gifting  
not above menial service

## **John 10:41-45**

When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant. 42 So Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. 43 But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. 45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."



A life full of the Spirit  
is a life full of Service

## **2 Corinthians 5:14-15**

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

## **2 Timothy 3:1-5**

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.  
**2 People will be lovers of themselves**, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, **3** without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, **4** treacherous, rash, conceited, **lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God**— **5** having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

## **Acts 2:42-47**

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

## **Romans 16:1-2**

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church at Cenchreae, 2 that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well.

Faithful, Spirit-filled,  
Everyday Believers  
Are the Heroes of the Church

## **What about these other names?**

Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas

## **Romans 16:6**

Greet Mary, who has worked hard for you.

## **Romans 16:12**

Greet those workers in the Lord, Tryphaena and Tryphosa.  
Greet the beloved Persis, who has worked hard in the Lord.



## **1 Peter 4:10-11**

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who **serves by the strength that God supplies**—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

## **2 Samuel 9:4-5**

The king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "He is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar." 5 Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar...

Machir the son of Ammiel - Machir means "selling, sold".  
Ammiel means "the people of God."

Lo-debar - Nowhere, ghetto

## **Luke 14:12-14**

Then he turned to his host. "When you put on a luncheon or a banquet," he said, "don't invite your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors. For they will invite you back, and that will be your only reward. 13 Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. 14 Then at the resurrection of the righteous, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you."

## **Galatians 5:6**

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

## **Job 4:3-4**

“In the past you have encouraged many people;  
you have strengthened those who were weak.  
4 Your words have supported those who were falling;  
you encouraged those with shaky knees.

## **Proverbs 11:25**

The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.

## **2 Samuel 17:27-29**

When David came to Mahanaim, Shobi son of Nahash from Rabbah of the Ammonites, and Makir son of Ammiel from Lo Debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim 28 brought bedding and bowls and articles of pottery. They also brought wheat and barley, flour and roasted grain, beans and lentils, 29 honey and curds, sheep, and cheese from cows' milk for David and his people to eat. For they said, "The people have become exhausted and hungry and thirsty in the wilderness."



## **Hebrews 13:16**

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,  
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Classic Sermon: “No Little People, No Little Places,” by Francis Schaeffer. In this sermon, Schaeffer uses Moses’s staff as an eloquent metaphor for what every life can be. He describes Moses carrying this six-foot piece of wood around with him in the wilderness, the most mundane and taken-for-granted possession that he had. Yet when Moses, standing before the burning bush, wondered how in the world he would be able to convince Pharaoh to let God’s people go, God asked, “What is that in your hand?” (Exod. 4:2). For the rest of his life, Moses’s simple staff was simultaneously God’s staff. Schaeffer concludes:

“Consider the mighty ways in which God used a dead stick of wood. . . . Though we are limited and weak in talent, physical energy, and psychological strength, we are not less than a stick of wood. But as the rod of Moses had to become the rod of God, so that which is me must become the me of God. Then I can become useful in God’s hands. The Scripture emphasizes that much can come from little if the little is truly consecrated to God. There are no little people and no big people in the true spiritual sense, but only consecrated and unconsecrated people. The problem for each of us is applying this truth to ourselves.”

***-David Garland***

## **Philippinas 2:29-30**

(epaphroditus) So then, welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor people like him, 30 because he almost died for the work of Christ. He risked his life to make up for the help you yourselves could not give me.

# **3. Watch God Do Amazing Things Through His Church**

## **1 Timothy 1:8**

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God.

## **Ephesians 4:16**

He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

Serve with Our Time, Talents  
& Treasures





Heart  
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