



Go for God!

# “Leadership in the Kingdom of God!”

## ACTS Chapter 6

**INTRO:** In chapter six we discover Satan’s double edge sword against the Church:  
> Inside DIVISION! / Outside PERSECUTION!

### (v1-7) INSIDE DIVISION! - “Leadership Priorities”

(v1-2) Priority #1 - Leader’s DEVOTION & STUDY to the WORD of God - Joshua 1; Psalm 1; 2 Timothy 2:15.

(v3-4) Priority-#2 - Leader’s PRACTICE, PRAYER & the Ministry of the Word – 2 Tim. 3:14 – 4:5. (*Ministry - diakonia (dee-ak-on-ee'-ah)*; attendance (as a servant, etc.); figuratively- aid, (official) service, especially of the Christian teacher.)

(v5-6) Priority #3 - Leader’s DISCIPLESHIP & DELEGATION- *Look out from among you*- 2Tim. 2:1-10.

(v7) Priority #4 - Leader’s RESPONSIBILITIES: Discover “QUALIFIED MEN!” – Romans 12:1-13

### > Three qualifications for leadership:

#1 - “Good REPUTATION” - *martureo (mar-too-reh'-o)*; to be a witness, i.e. testify, give [evidence], bear record, have (obtain, of) good (honest) report, be well reported of.

#2 - “Full of the Holy Spirit” - “to be CONTROLLED by” - John 14:17,26; 15:26,27; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8 (“Fruit of the Spirit”- Galatians 5:22:23 - *Love, joy, peace longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.*)

#3 - “Full of WISDOM” - *sophia (sof-ee'-ah)* - Ability to judge correctly and to follow the best course of action, based on knowledge and understanding. The apostle Paul declared that the message of the cross is foolishness to the Greeks and a stumbling block to the Jews. But to those who believe, said Paul, this “foolishness of God” is “the wisdom of God” (1 Corinthians 1:18-25).

- Against the wisdom of God Paul contrasted “the wisdom of this world” (1 Corinthians 1:20; 3:19), “human wisdom” (1 Corinthians 2:4), “the wisdom of men” (1 Corinthians 2:5), “the wisdom of this age” (1 Corinthians 2:6), and “man’s wisdom” (1 Corinthians 2:13).

- The biblical concept of wisdom, therefore, is quite different from the classical view of wisdom, which sought through philosophy and man’s rational thought to determine the mysteries of existence and the universe. The first principle of biblical wisdom is that man should humble himself before God in reverence and worship, obedient to His commands.  
(from Nelson’s Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

- For further Qualifications of *Bishops/Elders/Pastors* look to 1 Timothy 3:1-7.  
For *Deacons* – 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

### (v8-15) OUTSIDE PERSECUTION! (Stephen- “Full of the HOLY SPIRIT & Power”)

(v8) *Stephen* - “*Stephanos*” means *VICTOR’S Crown!* This disciple of Jesus Christ was:

- **Full of FAITH!** - *pistis* (pis'-tis); persuasion, i.e. credence; moral conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially reliance upon Christ for salvation; constancy in such profession; by extension, the system of Gospel truth itself.

- **Full of POWER!** - *dunamis* (doo'-nam-is); force (literally or figuratively); specially, miraculous power, the ability to do.

- **Did great SIGNS AND WONDERS** – miracles!

(v9) **Freedmen** - Descendants of Jewish slaves captured by Pompeii (63 B.C.) and taken to Rome. They were later freed and formed a Jewish community there.

- **Cyrenians** - Men from Cyrene, a city in North Africa. Simon, the man conscripted to carry Jesus' cross, was a native of Cyrene (Luke 23:26).

- **Alexandrians** - Alexandria, another major North African city, was located near the mouth of the Nile River. The powerful preacher *Apollos* was from Alexandria.

- **Cilicia and Asia** - Roman provinces in Asia Minor (modern Turkey).

(v10) Stephen's **PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST** was **full of WISDOM, and full of the SPIRIT!**

(v11-14) Observe Satan's work through those who persecute believers:

- (v11) Deception and false accusations!
- (v12) Stirring or stoking a fire without truth, mob rules!
- (v13-14) Lies, lies, and more lies!

(v15) Observe God's intervention as Stephen's face became like "*the face of angel.*" Jesus said in John 16:33 – "*These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*"

> ***Insight of Leadership by J. Oswald Sanders entitled:***

### **Improving Leadership**

Hudson Taylor, founder of the China Inland Mission, was a simple yet astute man. He had the gift of saying tremendously significant things in a simple way. In a letter dated 1879 to the secretary of the mission, Taylor said:

**The all-important thing to do is to**

1. **Improve the character of the work**
2. **Deepen the piety, devotion, and success of the workers**
3. **Remove stones of stumbling, if possible**
4. **Oil the wheels where they stick**
5. **Amend whatever is defective**
6. **Supplement, as far as may be, what is lacking**

Such simple advice reveals insight into a leader's responsibility. An analysis highlights six important areas to care for.

(1) **Administration** – to improve the character of the work. The leader must discover which departments are functioning below standards and remedy the defect. This may involve developing new job descriptions or establishing new reporting procedures and other lines of communication.

**(2) Spiritual tone – to deepen the piety, devotion, and success of the worker.** The tone of the church or mission will be a reflection of its leaders. Water rises to the level of its source. The spiritual health of the leadership group should be a top concern among higher echelon leadership. Job satisfaction is also important. If leaders can show their colleagues methods to improve success, their sense of fulfillment will be reflected in an improvement in the quality of their work.

**(3) Group morale – to remove stones of stumbling.** Friction among a team should be minimized. When problems are neglected, morale drops and performance decreases. If the problem has a remedy, it should be put into a place at once. If the problem is a person, the delinquent should be dealt with as soon as the facts are clear, and let the chips fall. Of course the problem or person should be treated with consideration and love, but the work of God cannot be sacrificed for the sake of keeping peace.

**(4) Personal relationships – to oil the wheels where they stick.** Warm relationships among team members are vital. Some workers prefer to administer, others want to love people. Only the latter are leaders. In handling people, the oil can is much more effective than the acid bottle.

**(5) Problem solving – to amend what is defective.** One of the chief duties of leaders is to solve tough problems within the organization. Creating problems is easy; solving them is difficult. The leader must face the problem realistically and follow through until the solution is reached.

**(6) Creative planning – to supplement what is lacking.** Criticizing plans is easier than creating them. The leader must see the goal clearly, plan imaginatively, and employ tactics that lead to success. In this department there is always a short supply of people ready and qualified to perform.

One more way to improve leadership potential: resist the idea of “leadership from the rear.” True leadership is always from the top down, never from the bottom up. It was leadership from the rear that led Israel back into the wilderness.

Many churches and organizations are in a stalemate because leaders have submitted to a kind of blackmail from the rear. No dissident or reactionary element should be allowed to determine group policy against the consensus of the spiritual leaders.

From: *Spiritual Leadership* by J. Oswald Sanders