

Signs of Life: Leadership

Acts 6:1-8

July 11, 2026

CUSTOM

<p A N N O U N C E M E N T S <p

CAR SHOW VOLUNTEERS

- Our **4th annual Grace Car Show** is coming up on **Saturday, Aug. 8th**.
- A **free** family-friendly event with food, music, activities for kids, and awesome vehicles.
- Great **opportunity** to reach out to our community/region with the **gospel**.
- **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS**
 - Things like set-up, Kid's zone, evangelism/prayer team, and more.
- Sign up through the church center app

Rite of Passage

YTH CAMP

- Thank you all for praying for our students this past week while they were away at camp.
- It was a powerful week and they had 8 students get baptized

SCRIPTURE

Acts 6:1-8 (NKJV) [1] Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. [2] Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. [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; [4] but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." [5] 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, [6] whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. [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. [8] And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.

Up to this point in Acts, we have been watching the unstoppable work of the Holy Spirit through the early church. Jesus has ascended. The Spirit has been poured out. The gospel has been preached with boldness. Sinners have been saved by the thousands. The lame have walked. The sick have been healed. The church has been marked by worship, generosity, unity, courage, and the fear of God.

But we have also seen something else. Wherever God is working, the enemy is resisting.

1. First, the enemy tried to stop the church through persecution. Peter and John were arrested, threatened, and commanded not to speak in the name of Jesus. But persecution did not silence the church. It only strengthened their boldness.
2. Additionally, the enemy tried to corrupt the church through internal deception. Ananias and Sapphira tried to manufacture spiritual reputation through hypocrisy and lies. But God protected the purity of His church.
3. Then, once again, the apostles were arrested. They were beaten. They were commanded not to preach. But Acts 5 ends by telling us that “daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.”

So persecution could not stop the church. Deception could not corrupt the church. Religious intimidation could not silence the church.

But now, in Acts 6, the enemy uses another weapon: complaints and division from within.

This is an important moment of decision. If this situation is handled poorly, the church could divide along cultural lines. The Hellenistic Jewish believers could begin to resent the Hebrew Jewish believers.

But that is not what happens.

Instead, God uses Spirit-filled leadership to protect the unity of the church, meet the needs of the people, and keep the mission moving forward.

That is the big idea of this passage: ***Christ strengthens His church through godly leaders who recognize real problems, respond with Spirit-filled wisdom, and raise up qualified servant-leaders for the work of ministry.***

So the health of the church depends not only on passionate ministry, but on godly leadership.

And Acts 6 shows us the kind of leadership Christ uses to preserve and strengthen His church.

MAIN POINT 1

Godly Leaders Recognize Division Before It Damages the Body

SCRIPTURE

Acts 6:1-8 (NKJV) - 1 Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.

The first thing I want you to notice is that this problem did not arise because the church was dead. It arose because the church was growing.

Luke says, **“the number of the disciples was multiplying.”** That is what every pastor wants to hear! People were being saved. Disciples were being made. The church was alive. The gospel was spreading. But with multiplication came complication.

The early church was growing, but growth brings pressure. More people meant more needs. More needs meant more opportunities for things to be overlooked. And when real needs are overlooked, real people get hurt. Before long, a complaint rises within the body.

The church is both powerful and fragile. Powerful because Christ is building it; like a tank, it can plunge into the heart of the battle and take a beating. But it's also fragile because it is filled with people like us. We are redeemed, but still being sanctified. We love Jesus, but we still have preferences, blind spots, weaknesses, hurts, and opinions.

That is true in every growing ministry. Growth is a blessing, but growth also brings pressure. More people means more stories, more backgrounds, more expectations, more wounds, more weaknesses, and more opportunities for misunderstanding.

That is not a complaint. That is ministry. When ministry starts to get hard, I often remind myself of Proverbs 14:4":

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 14:4 (NKJV) - Where no oxen are, the trough is clean; But much increase comes by the strength of an ox.

Do you want nice, easy, squeaky clean ministry? Get rid of the people, but then you wouldn't really have ministry, would you? More people might mean more messes, but oh, what can be accomplished for Jesus when more people get together and all work together for Jesus! Leadership and ministry can be messy!

QUOTE

Sometimes it takes a little grit to do God's will.

The issue: There arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists.

While the complaining may not have been positive, the need was real. Sometimes people's observations are valid even if their methods are not.

The early church was caring for widows through a daily distribution. That was good and necessary ministry. In that culture, widows were among the most vulnerable people in society. Many had no steady means of support. They often depended on family, community, and charity for daily provision. So the church, following the heart of God, was stepping in to care for those who could not easily care for themselves.

But a problem arose. The Hellenists began to complain against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.

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The Hellenists were Greek-speaking Jews, likely shaped more by Greek culture and language. The Hebrews were native Jewish believers who were more closely connected to the language and customs of Jerusalem and Judea. These were not two different religions. These were all believers in Jesus. But they came from different cultural backgrounds, spoke different languages, and likely moved in different social circles.

And now, one group feels overlooked. That is important. ***The complaint may not have been expressed perfectly, but the concern was real.***

APPLICATION

Sometimes people bring up problems in ways that are frustrating, emotional, incomplete, or even immature. But wise leaders do not dismiss a real problem just because it came wrapped in a complaint.

The word translated “complaint” carries the idea of murmuring or grumbling. It is not usually a flattering word. It reminds us of Israel in the wilderness, grumbling against Moses and ultimately against the Lord. Murmuring has a way of spreading poison through the body. It takes a concern that should be handled with humility and turns it into suspicion, accusation, and division.

This is where danger can lie, and where the enemy can find a foothold.

QUOTE

— Kent Hughes

When believers are unhappy and begin to murmur, the first place to look for the problem is in their own hearts.

It's been said that complaining is like bad breath: you notice it when coming out of someone else's mouth, but never when it comes out of your own. It would be good to listen more to ourselves, because it really might reveal what is in our hearts.

ILLUSTRATION

Every ten years, monks in a monastery are allowed to break their vow of silence to speak two words. Ten years go by, and it's one monk's first chance. He thinks for a second before saying, "Food bad." Ten years later, he says, "Bed hard." It's the big day, a decade later. He gives the head monk a long stare and says, "I quit." "I'm not surprised," says the head monk. "You've been complaining ever since you got here."

This crucial moment could have divided the early church along cultural lines. The Hellenistic believers could have said, **"The Hebrew believers do not care about us."** The Hebrew believers could have said, "The Hellenists are just being dramatic and divisive." The widows could have remained neglected. The apostles could have become distracted. The mission could have been hindered.

This was not just an administrative issue. This was a spiritual threat to the unity and witness of the church.

And that is where godly leadership matters.

Godly leaders must be able to recognize dissension before it damages the body. ***They cannot pretend there is no problem. They cannot be so fragile that every complaint feels like a personal attack. They cannot be so passive that they allow murmuring to spread unchecked. And they cannot be so harsh that they crush hurting people instead of shepherding them.***

They have to listen carefully, discern wisely, and move toward the problem in a God-honoring way.

There is an important lesson here for the whole church as well as leaders: ***do not let messes keep you from ministry.***

Some people get involved in church, encounter a problem, get disappointed, and then pull back completely. They say, "I do not want to deal with church drama." I understand that. Church hurt is real. Complaints can be exhausting. People can be immature. Leaders can mishandle things. But withdrawing from the body is not the biblical answer.

Sometimes you will be the person hurt by the mess. Sometimes you will be the person who helps clean up the mess. And if we are honest, sometimes you and I may be the

ones who helped create the mess.

APPLICATION

So what do we do?

We show grace. We pursue peace. We speak honestly without murmuring. We forgive quickly. We address real problems biblically. And we keep serving Jesus together.

Because a healthy church is not a church where problems never arise. A healthy church is a church where problems are brought into the light and handled with humility, truth, wisdom, and love.

MAIN POINT 2

Godly Leaders Discern Faithful Solutions

SCRIPTURE

Acts 6:3 (NKJV) - "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;"

Now, I love what happens here. The apostles do not panic. They do not form a committee to study the possibility of maybe addressing the issue sometime before the Second Coming.

They lead.

That may sound simple, but it is not always common.

APPLICATION

One of the great needs in the church is not merely people who can spot problems. Most people can spot problems. Some people have a spiritual gift of spotting problems. It is not listed in Romans 12, but they are convinced it should be!

But biblical leadership requires more than seeing what is wrong. Biblical leadership requires discernment to know what is really happening, what actually needs to be done, and how to move forward in a way that honors Christ and strengthens the body.

The apostles recognize that this complaint could not be ignored. These widows mattered. The unity of the church mattered. The credibility of the ministry mattered. The preaching of the Word mattered. All of it mattered.

That is where discernment is necessary.

Discernment is not the ability to be suspicious of everybody. Some people think they are discerning when they are really just cynical and critical. Discernment is not walking into every room assuming the worst motives in every person. That is not wisdom.

QUOTE

Biblical discernment is the Spirit-given ability to see clearly, judge rightly, and act faithfully.

The apostles had to see several things at once.

- They had to see that the Hellenistic widows were being neglected.
- They had to see that murmuring could divide the church.
- They had to see that the daily distribution needed better oversight.
- They had to see that they could not abandon their calling to prayer and the ministry of the Word.
- And they had to see that God had already placed qualified men within the congregation who could help carry the load.

That is wise leadership. Notice how they handle it:

1. **First, they take initiative.**

Verse 2 says, “Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples.”

They do not wait until the complaint becomes a church split. They do not let the fire spread while hoping it puts itself out. They step toward the problem.

Good leaders do not enjoy conflict, but they also do not run from it. There are some fires that need time to burn out, and there are other fires that will burn the whole house down if somebody does not grab a hose.

This was a hose moment.

1. **Second, they offer a workable solution.**

They say, “*Seek out from among you seven men...*”

They do not merely say, “Somebody should really do something about this.” That is one of the least helpful sentences in church life. “Somebody should...” usually means, “I have noticed a problem and would like someone else to carry the burden.”

The apostles give clear direction. Choose seven qualified men. Put them over this business. Let them serve the body and bring order to this ministry.

1. **Third, they keep the mission clear.**

They say in verse 4:

“But we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

This was not arrogance; this was an understanding of the various calls within leadership.

They were not saying, **“We are too important to serve tables.”** They were saying, **“We cannot neglect the assignment Christ has given us.”** The issue was not whether serving tables mattered. Of course it mattered! The issue was whether the apostles should leave their primary calling in order to do something that other Spirit-filled men could do.

That is discernment.

A leader who tries to do everything will eventually neglect the most important thing.

1. **Fourth, they involve the body.**

They tell the congregation to seek out these men. That means the solution was not imposed solely from the top. The apostles gave direction, but the people participated. The leadership led, and the congregation responded.

There was order without control. There was participation without chaos. There was authority without heavy-handedness. There was unity without pretending the problem never happened.

That is what Spirit-filled leadership can do.

1. **And fifth, they cover the decision in prayer.**

Verse 6 says they set these men before the apostles, **“and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.”**

They did not merely appoint workers. They commissioned servants with the power of prayer. They acknowledged that this work mattered to God. Caring for widows mattered. Protecting unity mattered. Handling resources mattered. Choosing leaders mattered.

So they prayed.

Here is the lesson: ***Godly leaders discern faithful solutions. They do not ignore problems. They do not feed drama. They do not sacrifice the mission to keep everyone happy. They do not use authority to crush people. They lead with wisdom, clarity, humility, courage, and prayer.***

And when that happens, the church is strengthened instead of split.

MAIN POINT 3

A Christian leader: Must Employ Delegation

SCRIPTURE

Acts 6:2-4 (NKJV) - 2 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. 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; 4 "but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

Now, at first glance, this could sound like an excuse to escape ministry.

The apostles say, **"It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables."**

Someone could hear that and say, "Well, isn't that nice? The apostles get to preach sermons and pray prayers while everyone else has to do the real work. Must be nice to be so spiritual that you're above carrying a plate!"

But that is not what is happening here.

The apostles were not **"too important"** to serve tables. They were **"too called"** to leave the ministry Christ had entrusted to them.

There is a difference. This was not pride. This was priority.

The apostles were not saying, "Serving tables is beneath us." They were saying, "Prayer and the ministry of the Word have been assigned to us, and if we leave that assignment, the whole church will suffer."

That is important because every part of ministry matters, but not every part of ministry belongs to the same person.

QUOTE

— Pastor Josh

Everything that matters is not always yours to carry. Something that matters is yours to carry.

The church needed the widows to be fed. That mattered. It was not a side issue. It was not beneath the dignity of spiritual men. In fact, the apostles insisted that the men chosen for this work had to be full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. That tells us something.

You do not need Spirit-filled men for unimportant work.

The care of widows mattered to God. The distribution of food mattered to God. The unity of the church mattered to God. But the apostles also knew that the ministry of prayer and the Word mattered to God.

So what did they do? They delegated. And church, delegation is not spiritual laziness. Delegation is spiritual wisdom.

- A leader who refuses to delegate may look committed, but over time he can actually become a bottleneck to the work of God. Everything slows down because everything has to pass through him. Every decision, every problem, every ministry, every detail, every text message, every leaky faucet, every broken copier moment.
- At some point, a leader has to realize: “I am not the Holy Spirit. I am not the Savior. I am not the whole body of Christ. I am one member with a particular calling.”

That is not weakness; that is acknowledging reality.

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12 that the church is one body with many members. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you.” But the hand also cannot say to the eye, “You better start doing my job, or I’m leaving this church!”

The body works when each part does what God has called and gifted it to do. That is what is happening in Acts 6. The apostles are protecting their calling while making room for others to fulfill theirs.

That is the beauty of biblical delegation. It does not diminish ministry. It multiplies ministry.

This is why the “I must do everything” mindset is so dangerous. It can sound humble, but sometimes it is not humility at all. Sometimes it is control. Sometimes it is insecurity. Sometimes it is fear that if someone else does it, they might do it differently.

So biblical delegation requires two things: **a leader humble enough to release responsibility, and servants mature enough to carry responsibility.**

That is how the church is strengthened.

ILLUSTRATION

We see the same principle in Exodus 18 with Moses. Moses was sitting from morning until evening judging the matters of the people. Everyone came to him. Every issue landed on his plate. Every dispute needed his attention. And Jethro, his father-in-law, watched the whole thing and basically said, “Moses, this is a terrible plan.”

That is the Josh Blevins paraphrase.

Jethro tells him, “The thing that you do is not good. Both you and these people who are with you will surely wear yourselves out.”

In other words: “Moses, you are going to burn out, and the people are going to suffer while watching you burn out.”

So Jethro tells him to appoint capable, God-fearing men who can help carry the burden.

Because no one man, except the Lord Jesus Christ, is sufficient to carry the needs of God's people alone.

- Even Moses needed help.
- Even the apostles needed help.
- Every pastor needs help.
- Every ministry leader needs help.

And notice what happened when the apostles delegated.

SCRIPTURE

Acts 6:5-6 (NKJV) - 5 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, 6 whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

The people were pleased. The leaders were raised up. The apostles affirmed them. The church prayed over them. And the ministry moved forward.

There is also something beautiful in the names Luke gives us. These seven men all have Greek names. That likely means the church chose men from among the very group that had felt overlooked.

The church did not respond to division with defensiveness. They responded with trust. They did not say, "Well, we better make sure the Hebrews stay in control." They chose qualified men who could serve the need faithfully.

That is the kind of thing grace does in a church.

- Grace does not protect turf.
- Grace does not feed suspicion.
- Grace does not need to win every argument or divide based on our human loyalties.
- Grace says, "Let's make this right, and let's do it in a way that honors Jesus."

And the apostles laid hands on them.

That does not mean they gave them status so they could feel important. It means they commissioned them for service. In the kingdom of God, leadership is not a throne to sit on. It is a towel to pick up.

Jesus already modeled that.

SCRIPTURE

Mark 10:45 (NKJV) [45] For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

So when we talk about delegation, we are not talking about leaders escaping servanthood. We are talking about leaders multiplying servanthood.

- Some are called to serve by preaching the Word.
- Some are called to serve by caring for widows.
- Some are called to serve by leading children.
- Some are called to serve by discipling young believers.
- Some are called to serve by setting up chairs, running sound, visiting the sick, managing finances, making meals, greeting guests, cleaning up messes, praying in quiet rooms, and doing things nobody sees but Jesus.

And if Jesus sees it, it matters.

MAIN POINT 4

Godly Leaders Must Meet Spiritual Qualifications

SCRIPTURE

Acts 6:3 (NKJV) [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 apostles did not say, “Find seven men who are successful in business.” They did not say, “Find seven men who are popular.” They did not say, “Find seven men who have strong opinions and a lot of free time.” They did not say, “Find seven men who have been complaining the loudest, so maybe putting them in charge will quiet them down.”

That is not usually a great leadership strategy, by the way!

No, there were specific qualifications for the responsibilities entailed. The apostles said, “Find men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom.”

That tells us something very important:

QUOTE

The work may have been practical, but the qualifications were spiritual.

They were going to oversee the daily distribution to widows. They were going to handle food, resources, logistics, fairness, communication, and probably some difficult personalities along the way. On the surface, someone might think, “Well, just find some organized, well-intentioned guys.” But the apostles knew better.

Because in the church, practical ministry is never merely practical. It is always spiritual.

When you are dealing with people, you are dealing with souls. When you are caring for widows, you are touching something close to the heart of God. When you are distributing resources, you are handling trust. When you are solving conflict, you are protecting unity. When you are leading servants, you are influencing the body of Christ.

So the apostles do not begin with talent. They begin with character.

John MacArthur said it well:

QUOTE

— John MacArthur

“According to Scripture, virtually everything that truly qualifies a person for leadership is directly related to character. It’s not about style, status, personal charisma, clout, or worldly measurements of success. Integrity is the main issue that makes the difference between a good leader and a bad one.”

The church has often gotten itself into trouble when it has been impressed with the wrong things. We can be impressed with gifting, personality, intelligence, confidence, success, platform, money, influence, or the ability to speak well in front of people.

And listen, gifting matters. Competence matters. Wisdom matters. But gifting without character is dangerous. A gifted man without character is not a blessing to the church. He is a liability waiting for the right pressure to expose him.

Rushing to put people in leadership to meet a need while ignoring the character and quality of the leader only leads to long-term dysfunction and turmoil.

The apostles give three qualifications.

1. First, these men had to be of good reputation.

That means their life had to be observable. There needed to be a track record. People could look at them and say, “That man isn’t perfect, but he’s faithful. That man is honest and trustworthy. That man treats people well. That man is not one person in public and another person in private.”

Good reputation does not mean everyone likes you. If everyone likes you, you may not have said anything meaningful in a while. Jesus was perfect, and they crucified Him.

So this is not about popularity. It is about credibility.

A leader in the church must have a life that gives weight to his words. His conduct should not constantly undermine his calling. That is the burden of leadership. Leaders are examples before they are executives. Their lives should preach before their mouths open.

1. **Second, these men had to be full of the Holy Spirit.**

Not merely religious men or available men. Not merely nice or familiar with church culture. ***Full of the Holy Spirit.***

That means their lives were visibly yielded to God and full of His fruit and power. They were men under the influence of the Spirit.

- Their attitudes, speech, priorities, convictions, humility, courage, and love gave evidence that God was at work in them. **Apparently, there is a visibility to those who are walking in the Spirit's power.**

And this matters because the church cannot be led well by fleshly men using spiritual language. A man can know church vocabulary and still not be Spirit-filled. He can say "amen," quote verses, understand doctrine, and still be driven by pride, insecurity, anger, ambition, or control. Only a man under the Spirit's control could be trusted with ministry leadership.

The apostles were not looking for men who could merely manage a ministry like a business. **They were looking for men who could represent Christ in the ministry and trust the Spirit to build it.**

1. **Third, these men had to be full of wisdom.**

Wisdom is more than knowledge. Knowledge knows facts. Wisdom knows how to apply truth rightly in real life. And ministry requires wisdom!

You can have the right answer and still handle a situation the wrong way. You can quote the right verse with the wrong spirit. You can make the right decision with the wrong timing. You can solve one problem while creating three more because you lacked wisdom.

These men needed wisdom as they stepped into a sensitive situation. There had been neglect. There had been complaints. There were cultural tensions. There were vulnerable widows. There were believers who may have already felt wounded or suspicious.

This was not the moment for careless men. This was not the moment for hotheads. This was not the moment for men who loved being in charge but did not love people.

They needed wise men. Men who feared the Lord and knew the Word.

- Men who could listen and discern.
- Men who could be fair and who could communicate clearly.

- Men who could handle criticism without falling apart and bring peace without compromising truth.

That is the kind of leadership the church needs.

These qualifications should cause a pause...

The church should not be careless with leadership. We should be gracious with everyone, patient with everyone, loving toward everyone, and eager to see everyone grow. But leadership in the church is not a participation trophy.

Everyone in the body of Christ matters and has gifts to steward and use, but not everyone should lead.

That may sound strong, but it is biblical. Leadership carries influence, and influence carries responsibility. James says, **“Let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.”**

If that is true of teaching, the principle certainly applies to spiritual leadership in general. The higher the influence, the heavier the accountability.

So we should never lower the standard just because there is a need.

And this should make every leader tremble a little.

It makes me tremble.

- When I read the qualifications for leaders in passages like 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, I do not walk away thinking, “Well, obviously God is lucky to have me.” No, I walk away saying, “Lord, have mercy. Make me the kind of man You can trust with Your people.”
- Because Christ loves His church. He purchased her with His own blood. The church does not belong to the pastor. It does not belong to the deacons. It does not belong to the loudest voices, the biggest givers, the longest attenders, or the strongest personalities.
- The church belongs to Jesus. And because the church belongs to Jesus, leadership in the church must be taken seriously.

But let me also say this: these qualifications are not meant to discourage every sincere believer from serving. They are meant to call us upward. If you hear this and think, “I want my life to become that kind of life,” that is a good desire.

That is what Acts 6 shows us. When the church faced division, God did not merely give them a system. He gave them qualified servants. And through those servants, He protected the body, preserved unity, cared for the vulnerable, and kept the mission moving forward.

Conclusion

Well, the men were chosen, prayed over, and commissioned.

SCRIPTURE

Acts 6:7 (NKJV) - 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.

Because of good and godly leadership, three things happened: the word of God spread further, the number of disciples grew, and even the Jewish priests were getting saved. What a powerful testimony of the power of God to rectify a potentially disastrous situation.

- The passage begins with a complaint that could have stifled the church's growth, but it ends with further multiplication.
- It begins with neglected widows, but it ends with the Word of God spreading.
- It begins with a real problem in the body, but it ends with even a great many priests becoming obedient to the faith.

That is the grace of God!

CLOSING

Jesus does not build His church by pretending problems do not exist. He builds His church by bringing problems into the light and teaching His people to walk through them with truth, humility, wisdom, and love.

So the question is not, “Will problems ever arise?” They will. The question is, “What kind of people will we be when they do?” Will we murmur, divide, accuse, and pull away? Or will we move toward one another with humility, patience, truth, forgiveness, and love?

- **Will leaders ignore problems, or recognize them before they damage the body?**
- **Will leaders react emotionally, or discern faithful solutions?**
- **Will leaders try to carry everything themselves, or delegate wisely and raise up others?**
- **Will the church settle for mere talent and availability, or uphold the biblical standard of character, wisdom, and the fullness of the Holy Spirit?**

This passage searches every one of us.

- Pastors, elders, deacons, and ministry leaders must ask, “Am I leading as a servant under the authority of Christ?”
- Husbands and fathers must ask, “Am I leading my home with humility, wisdom, and love?”
- Mothers, servants, volunteers, and members of the body must remember that hidden faithfulness is not small in the eyes of God.

The church does not need more people chasing titles. It needs servants carrying towels. It needs men and women who are full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. It needs people who will protect unity, meet needs, speak truth, forgive quickly, serve gladly, and keep Jesus at the center.

Because at the end of the day, it is about Jesus Christ building His church and reaching the world.

And when Jesus builds His church, complaints can become catalysts, problems can become pathways, servants can become leaders, and the Word of God can spread even further than before.

May He do that in us.