



*"...and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."  
Acts 1:8b*

**Godly Leaders Chosen**  
Acts 6:1-7  
by Bob DeWaay

Gospel of Grace Fellowship      October-November, 2015

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**Spiritual Danger: Grumbling**

**Acts 6:1** (ESV)  
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.

*"Complaint" is goggusmos = "grumbling"*  
*"This term is used in intensified form in Ex. 16:2"*  
*"Grumbling also happens against Jesus: Luke 15:2; John 6:41"*

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**A Godly Solution**

**Acts 6:2, 3** (ESV)  
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. 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."

*"The Apostles had a unique role"*  
*"The preaching of the Word is of primary importance"*  
*"Full of the Spirit" denotes "reliable witness"*

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**Devotion to the Service of the Word**

**Acts 6:4, 5** (ESV)

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

- “ Stephen has qualities of a reliable witness
- “ The term “deacon” does not appear here
- “ Luke introduces people who will be key characters
- “ The congregation did the selecting

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4

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**The Word of God Is Growing and Multiplying**

**Acts 6:6, 7** (ESV)

These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. 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.

- “ “Multiplying” forms an inclusio with Acts 6:1
- “ The word “growing” reminds us of Luke 8:11
- “ “Obedience to the faith” denotes saving faith in the gospel

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