

the book of
acts

community
ablaze



The background of the slide features a stylized, dark brown flame pattern. The flames are composed of several vertical, elongated shapes with wavy, pointed tops, set against a dark, almost black background. The overall effect is a subtle, textured backdrop for the text.

WHEN NEGLECT AND THE GOSPEL INTERSECT

**Aron Osborne
April 22, 2012**

“When the Bible talks about the church – the people of God – it uses a variety of exciting and dynamic images. We are the bride yearning for our wedding day and beautifying ourselves for it. We are a thriving, bustling city

**of people drawn from every
race and walk of life. We are
the active body, directed
and controlled by Jesus
Christ our Head. We are the
pilgrim people of God, being
led across the desert to the
Promised Land. We are the
army of the Lord,**

wielding the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. We are the light on a hill, shining the hope of salvation to a lost world.”

***~ Steve Timmis and
Tim Chester***

Acts 6:1-7





**Neglect is an opportunity for
the Gospel to Strengthen
the Church!**

I. Neglect And The Gospel

1. Neglect will happen!
2. Experiencing Neglect Reveals our Functional Gospel.
 - a. A Functional Gospel moves us from how we feel to what is real.
 - b. A Functional Gospel sees moments of neglect as moments of opportunity.

3. When Neglect and the Gospel Intersect the Church Grows!

- a. Part of a solution, not part of a problem.
- b. The church grows.

**“The tiniest events
sometimes cause great
problems. Again and again
a church has warded off a
frontal attack only to be
subverted from within...
Countless works for God
have been destroyed in this
way.**

**God blesses a work, souls
come to Christ, the church
reaches its community,
missionaries are sent out.
Then someone complains
that he or she is not
appreciated or is being
neglected. Perhaps this
comes in the form**

of a critical glance, a name forgotten, a social gaffe, or some imagined offense. Bitter dissension ignites and spreads, and the whole work goes up in flames.”

~ R. Kent Hughes



Perception

Reality

**“The offense may have been
more imagined than actual,
but that *made no difference*
to the those who felt
overlooked.”**

~ *R. Kent Hughes*

“The church, when it is the church, is a holy community, the temple of the Holy Spirit. Disunity, duplicity, and hypocrisy always “belie” the Spirit and hinder his work. If the church is to have genuine spiritual power in its

**life and witness, it must be
an environment of the Spirit,
devoted to maintaining its
sanctity and purity.”**

~ John Polhill

A stylized graphic of a flame or fire, rendered in a dark brown color with a lighter brown outline, positioned in the background behind the text.

**Neglect is an opportunity for
the Gospel to Strengthen
the Church!**

II. Practical Response

1. Remember when you were new.
2. Leave room.
3. Do not harbor offense.

**“Many times by fears,
jealousies, and suspicions
men create that in their
hearts which had never a
place in the suspected
parties’ imagination.”**

~ John Polhill

