



ACTS

—

Growing Pain:
*The Choosing
of the Seven*

Acts 6:1–7

OF THE

Holy Spirit



Growing Pain

A Good Problem!

Acts 6:1-17 Growing pain

A practical issue dealt by the Spirit

A healthy Spirit-led church keeps moving forward by handling problems biblically, protecting unity, and staying focused on its mission.





Acts 6:1-7 The Choosing of the Seven

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.

A Growing Church Faces Challenges

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.

The church was growing

Two groups of Jews

Hebraic Jews and Grecian Jews

Hellenists' complaint about Food

The practical issue of food touched on fairness, compassion, and unity





Acts 6:1-7 Growing Pain

The Spirit Preserving Health, Unity, and Growth

- 1. Addresses Problems Openly and Honestly**
- 2. A Healthy Church Develops New Leaders**
- 3. Balances Practical and Spiritual Ministry**

1. A Wise Church Addresses Problems Openly and Honestly

² So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said...

Spirit-led Discussion

The apostles did not ignore the complaint

They treasure unity above personal interest



They know their calling and priority

“It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables.”

They were willing to share and delegate the ministry

**Focus on spiritual priorities
Prayer and Word**

⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.



2. A Healthy Church Develops New Leaders

Seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom (NKJV)

Spirit-led Discernment - 3 qualifications:

1. Good Reputation– Character & Integrity

Command confidence and trust

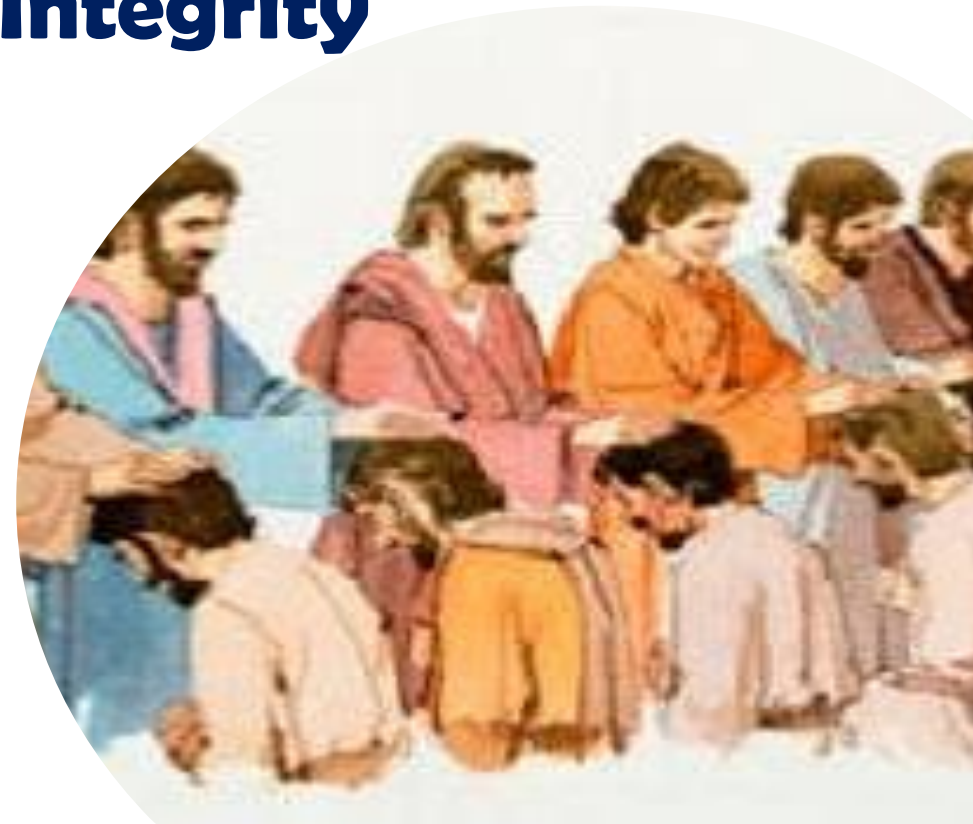
2. Full of the Holy Spirit

Godly Servant leader

Humble and surrender to God

3. Full of Wisdom - Discernment

Competence in administration





Seven were appointed - 6 Jews, 1 Gentiles

All Hellenistic named and speaking

- **Stephen** – A faithful servant, witness, and martyr.
- **Philip** who evangelised to the Ethiopian eunuch.
- **Prochorus** was later an attendant of John, became Bishop of Nicomedia, and died as a martyr at Antioch.
- **Nicolas from Antioch**, a Gentile convert to Judaism.

3. Balances Practical and Spiritual Ministry

⁶ They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

Spiritual Empowerment

Laying of hand

No Spiritual/Sacred and Secular/Practical Divide

No “important spiritual work” vs. “less important practical work.”



The Result:
The Church was Unified,
Multiply, and Magnified

*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.*

**Even the priests
were attracted
and became disciples!**





Key Truth:

When churches led by the Spirit, protect unity, prioritize God's Word and prayer, empower servants, and is mission-focused in facing challenges, the gospel advances for God's glory.

- **Unity preserved.**
- **Ministry strengthened.**
- **Leadership multiplied.**
- **The gospel continued spreading.**



Key Lessons: Growing Pain

A growing church must continually adapt to grow healthily
Are we responding to challenges to grow healthily?

1. A Wise Church Addresses Problems Openly & Honestly

Problems should be addressed biblically by the Spirit
Are we dealing with problems openly, humbly, and lovingly?



2. A Healthy Church Develops New Leaders

Ministry is teamwork

- Leadership development is essential for church growth.

Leadership must be shared

*Are we willing to share our ministry
and raise up new workers and leaders?*



3. Balances Practical and Spiritual Ministry

The church advances when every believe steps into service faithfully for all ministries.

No role in God's kingdom is insignificant

Every ministry matters

Do we recognize both practical & spiritual service honour God?

The mission of the gospel must remain central



HLCE Values Statements - A Commitment to:

1+2. Relevant Bible exposition and prayer

3+4. Awe-inspiring worship and caring authentic relationship

**5+6. Seeking and saving the lost and building everyone
to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ**

7. A well-mobilised laity

8. Unity of body and teamwork

9+10. Building strong Christian families and excellence



Closing Challenge - Ask yourself:

- *Am I protecting and promoting unity?*
- *Am I willing to share and solve problem openly and humbly together with love?*
- *Am I willing to share and serve together where needed?*
- *Am I committed to the mission of the gospel?*



Conclusion

- Acts 6 reminds us that the Spirit-filled church is not called to stand still, grow complacent and comfortable in time of growth.
- The church is called to move in unity in facing challenges, in training new leaders in service, spiritual maturity and in gospel mission. in

HLCE Theme 2026 - Church on the Move

The Spirit Empowered Mission and Service



GO Be Spirit-Filled United Witnesses