



# ACTS: Building the Body

Acts 6:1-7 | Ryan Pfeiffer | March 15, 2026

**INTRO.** In the short amount of time between Acts 1 & Acts 6 The Church is estimated to have grown from 120 disciples to at least 10,000!

Luke records things like... 3,000. 5,000 added to the Church that day...  
V1 the number of disciples was increasing... v7 the number... increased rapidly.

This kind of revival growth began to out pace their support systems...

People begin falling through the cracks and get lost in the crowd...

Whenever Church, organization, family is growing it has adapt, be flexible and change in order to 1) stay true to their mission and 2) make rm for others

This passage gives us powerful leadership lessons for navigating growth...

**FOCUS.** This passage highlights 3 key leadership lessons: 1) Humility leads to learning. 2) Prioritizing keeps us on mission 3) Empowering others makes room for growth.

**1. HUMILITY LEADS TO LEARNING.** 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 complaint is coming from the Hellenistic Jews re: widows...

- These are Jews born outside of Judea... Like Rome, Egypt, Asia... Acts 2:9.
- They make up the diaspora... Jews scattered due to being conquered
- They often speak different languages... have different culture...

It takes humility to listen to complaints... wouldn't it have been easy to:

1. Become defensive... hey we've been busy being imprisoned and tortured!
2. Overspiritualize it... Ok... thx. We'll pray for those guys...
3. Disregard... they're hellenistic widows... what do they add anyways

Humility leads to new learning, wisdom, untangles conflict.

- Prov 11:2 With humility comes wisdom.
- Prov 1:5 Let the wise listen and add to their learning.
- Prov 13:10 When there is strife, there is pride, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

It's humility that leads that allows the Church to grow... our lives... etc...

The apostles learn... there are others who God has anointed to help them!

**2. PRIORITIZING KEEPS US ON MISSION.** 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.



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We learn something about the priorities of the Church...

- To teach and preach the Word of God.
- To pray and lean into the power of God
- To care for the vulnerable... Wait on tables...

Wait on tables: διακονέω.. diakoneō... serve, minister, administer, care...

The apostles are not demeaning this role... it's what they've been doing...

But they realize that if they are not careful... this role will overtake all others.

The apostles have humility to recognize their limitations... can't do it all...

So they reaffirm their core priorities... 3 CIRCLES IMAGE.

1. **WORD.** Teaching and preaching God's word. Look at verse 5:42...
2. **PRAYER.** Depending on God's presence and power.
3. **DEEDS.** Demonstrating God's goodness thru acts of mercy & compassion.
4. **LOVE.** Everything rooted in a love... Gal 5:6 All that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

Together they all give witness to the glory of the gospel.

They focus on the word for a couple of reasons... others will soon enough!

- They heard Jesus' teaching... they're still teaching everyone.
- It requires the greatest risk... Ch 5 they are arrested/ tortured.
- God's word serves as a plumb line for everything else! **FIRST AMONG EQUALS.**

But if we don't hold up all three...

1. **Word**... w/out Deeds... all talk...
2. **Deeds** w/out Word/Prayer... social activist group
3. **Word** w/out prayer... dead orthodoxy/ legalistic.
4. **LOVE**... anchors everything... gives it all a sweet spirit.

Paul 1 Cor 13... prophecy... have all knowledge... give to the poor

- Without love... "I am nothing... I gain nothing."

**3. EMPOWERING OTHERS MAKES ROOM FOR GROWTH.** 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.

This moment is incredible... the apostles empower 7 other people...

The result is widows are cared for and morale is boosted... increased growth



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Eventually these Stephen becomes the first martyr... Philip ignites revival in Samaria... Its guessed that Nicholas helps launch a church in Antioch (Paul will launch his mission from).

Empowerment is key here... takes humility for apostles to let go of control...

It takes humility for us to step up and give our time and talent to cause.

(Bring it back) διακονέω.. diakoneō... serve, minister, administer, care...

When we step up and volunteer we grow into mature disciples.

- We grow in our dependence on God
- We grow in humility and love.
- We get to know people here.

When we step up and volunteer we build up the Church into maturity.

- We help others feel seen at service.
- We help others find a place of belonging in groups.
- We help others who are facing financial hardship
- We help others who have hit a snag in their marriage
- We help create space for people to receive the gospel... saved!

INVITE DAN TO SHOW US HOW WE CAN TAKE A NEXT STEP.