

Unstoppable: The Story of the Church in Acts
The Strength of Servanthood
Acts 6:1-7

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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.

Acts 6:2 (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.

Acts 6:3 (ESV)

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.

Acts 6:4 (ESV)

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

Acts 6:5 (ESV)

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.

Acts 6:6 (ESV)

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

Acts 6:7 (ESV)

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.

1. The Serious Call to Servanthood

Acts 6:1 (ESV)

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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.

Romans 12:4 (ESV)

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function,

Romans 12:5 (ESV)

so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Romans 12:6 (ESV)

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith;

Romans 12:7 (ESV)

if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching;

Romans 12:8 (ESV)

the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

2. The Spiritual Credentials for Servanthood

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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.

Acts 6:4 (ESV)

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

3. The Supernatural Consequences of Servanthood

Acts 6:7 (ESV)

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.