

The Power of The Holy Spirit VI

Acts 6 The Power of Leadership

The power of leadership emerges during times of crisis.

Leadership power guides people into workable and portable solutions in chaotic times.

Simply stated, a lukewarm, sin-tolerant church lacks the moral authority to speak truth to power.

Samuel Rodriguez The Lamb's Agenda

NRSV **1 Peter 4:17** For the time has come **for judgment to begin with the household of God**; if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

MSG **1 Peter 4:17** **It's judgment time for Christians.** We're first in line. If it starts with us, think what it's going to be like for those who refuse God's Message!

NRSV **Acts 6:1** Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the **Hellenists** complained against the **Hebrews** because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. ² And the **twelve called together the whole community** of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order **to wait on tables**. ³ Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may **appoint to this task**, ⁴ while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." ⁵ What they said pleased **the whole community**, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶ **They had these men stand**

before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷
The word of God continued to spread; the number of **the disciples increased greatly** in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

The power of leadership will cause an increase to take place in the body.

I

The issue was that the people were *distressed* because they were being missed. *Acts 6:1*

Cultural, ethnic, and racial issues are throughout the Hebrew and Christian scriptures.

Holy Spirit wisdom is needed to solve *corporate* problems.

Holy Spirit wisdom is needed to solve *church* problems.

Holy Spirit wisdom is needed to solve *community* problems.

- The power of Holy Spirit leadership will always seek solutions.

II

The issue was how leaders *decide priorities* in ministry.

To wait tables was not beneath the leaders.

The tables (trapezais) may refer to tables used for serving food or to money tables, that is, banks.

Probably it was used here to refer to the place where funds and supplies were administered for the widows.

There should always be fair, just, and equitable distribution of God's bounty.

NKJ Deuteronomy 16:18 You shall appoint judges and officers in all your gates, which the LORD your God gives you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with just judgment. ¹⁹ **You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality**, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous. ²⁰ **You shall follow what is altogether just, that you may live and inherit** the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

- The issue is, where should ministry and resources be focused.

III

The issue is how leaders determine and respond to a crisis.

Consider *2 Kings 5:9* Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰ And **Elisha sent a messenger to him**, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean." ¹¹ **But Naaman became furious**, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.' ¹² Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? **Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.** ¹³ And **his servants** came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" ¹⁴ **So he went down and dipped**

seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; **and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.**

We need the Holy Spirit to show us...

What are ministry priorities? ***Acts 6:2***

Who shall lead? ***Acts 6:4***

How does the leader lead? ***2 Kings 5:10***

What methods are necessary now? ***2 Kings 5:10***

Where resources are to be used? ***Acts 6:1***

How resources are to be used? ***Acts 6:1***

- Today, we need Holy Spirit leadership!

*Rhema Christian Center
Apostle La Fayette Scales
Saturday & Sunday, September 10 & 11, 2022
9:30 a.m.*