

Preparing For a Growing Church III

Acts 6:1-4 (NIV)

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews^[a] 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. 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.

The Great Commission requires us to make disciples of all **nations** and go into all the **world** with the Gospel.

Matthew 28:19 and Mark 16:15

Churches grow as we obey the Great Commission.

Acts 2:41 and Acts 4:4

However, growing churches experience the challenge of growing **pains**.

I.

The growing pains in the text centered around **ethnic** issues.

Acts 6:1 (NIV) says, “*the Hellenistic Jews^[a] among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.*”

Sometimes church members can be **selective** about who we accept in our church.

However, we have to remember that Jesus called us to be fishers of men.

Matthew 4:18-19 (Easy-to-Read Version) says, “¹⁸ As Jesus was walking by Lake Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (called Peter) and Simon’s brother Andrew. These brothers were fishermen, and they were fishing in the lake with a net. ¹⁹ Jesus said to them, “Come, follow me, and I will make you a different kind of fishermen. You will bring in people, not fish.”

Fishermen are likely to catch a **variety** of fish.

Consider John 21:1-11

No matter what type of fish is caught, all of them still have to be **cleaned**.

II.

The people selected Greek men as Deacons to deal with a problem concerning Greek people.

Acts 6:5 (NIV) says, “*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.*”

Sometimes we are drawn to people we can relate to.

We need a diverse group of Deacons to effectively minister to the diversity that is currently at Rhema, and for those who are coming.

III.

The Apostles laid their hands on the Deacons who were selected.

Acts 6:6 says, “*They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.*”

Having the proper structure in place accelerated the church’s growth.

Acts 6:1 says, “*In those days when the number of disciples was **increasing**...*”

Acts 6:6 says, “*The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased **rapidly**...*”

Having more hands available will allow us to increase our touchpoints.

Let’s nominate Deacons who will help take Rhema to the next level.

Rhema Christian Center

Pastor Tony Ransom

Saturday & Sunday, May 31st & June 1, 2025

9:30 a.m.