



## SERMON NOTES

### Book of Acts

#### Acts 6:1-7 - Growing Pains

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#### Chapter Themes

Acts 1: Ascension of Christ  
Acts 2: Pentecost  
Acts 3: Miraculous Healing  
Acts 4: Persecution  
Acts 5: Deception/Hypocrisy  
Acts 6: Division

#### Acts 6:1 (NLT)

*1 But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food.*

#### GOD ENJOYS A GROWING CHURCH

Of the 400,000 plus churches in America, there are only 1800 our size or larger.

Growth is a good thing.

#### Mark 4:28 (NLT)

*28 The earth produces the crops on its own. First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens.*

#### 1 Corinthians 3:6 (NLT)

*6 I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow.*

#### Acts 6:2 (NLT)

*2 So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. They said, "We apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, not running a food program."*

Problems arise in the church when prayer and the preaching of the Word take a back seat to meeting social needs.

#### 1 Corinthians 14:40 (NKJV)

*40 Let all things be done decently and in order.*

**Acts 6:3 (NLT)**

*3 And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility.*

**Three qualifications of a servant-leader.**

**1. STANDING**

“Well respected.”

**2. SPIRITUALITY.**

“Full of the Spirit.”

**Acts 6:8 (TLB)**

*8 Stephen, the man so full of faith and the Holy Spirit's power, did spectacular miracles among the people.*

**3. SKILL**

“Wisdom”

**Acts 6:4 (NKJV)**

*4 but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.*

**Acts 6:5-6 (NLT)**

*5 Everyone liked this idea, and they chose the following: Stephen (a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit), Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas of Antioch (an earlier convert to the Jewish faith). 6 These seven were presented to the apostles, who prayed for them as they laid their hands on them.*

**The result of a healthy, unified church:**

**Acts 6:7 (MSG)**

*7 The Word of God prospered. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased dramatically. Not least, a great many priests submitted themselves to the faith.*