

GOD'S CALLING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Lesson Twelve

IN ACTS: The Appointment of Seven Serving Ones

Burden to Impart:

In order to avoid serious problems in the church, caused by the needs of the saints not being met, there need to be some serving ones to help. These must have a good testimony among the believers, must walk closely with the Lord and contact Him continuously, and must have wisdom and be able to work together with others in coordination.

Memory Verse: "Now brothers, select seven well-attested men from among you, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we shall appoint over this need" (Acts 6:3).

Facts to Teach:

1. Within a short time after Pentecost there were over five thousand believers (Acts 4:4). The Apostles and disciples spoke God's Word with boldness. Their testimony of the resurrected Christ spread throughout Jerusalem like wildfire.
2. Peter and John were arrested, beaten, and charged to speak no more about Jesus, but they could not be stopped (Acts 4:17-20; 5:40). They obeyed God's command, not men's. God gave great power to His Apostles to do signs and wonders, to heal the sick, and to cast out demons. Believers were added by the multitudes (Acts 5:14).
3. So great was the people's joy of salvation and love to the Lord that they sold their houses and gave the money to the Apostles so it could be used for the church's needs (Acts 4:34-35).
4. However, because of the multiplying of the disciples, some needs were not taken care of equally among the saints. This caused murmuring (Acts 6:1). Some widows among the Greek believers were overlooked in the daily dispensing of food or money. They began to murmur against the Hebrew believers. They felt there was partiality and unfairness. If this was not taken care of, the Lord's testimony was over. A bitter, complaining, and divided church cannot have the Lord's blessing or power. This would have eventually led to a division between the Greek and Jewish believers.
5. To solve the problem, the twelve Apostles called the multitude of the disciples together and told them to select serving ones (Acts 6:3). By taking care of the practical needs of the saints these helpers would enable the Apostles to continue their ministry of the Word. These men were "well-attested," very upright, honest, and trusted among the disciples. Also, they were "full of the Spirit," which means that they walked closely with the Lord, loved the Lord, and contacted Him continuously in their daily lives. They were "full of wisdom," which means they had patience, understanding, and experience in dealing with difficult situations with the Lord's help. Lastly, there were "seven," not one. They needed to learn to coordinate and work together to serve the Lord and the church. No one was the "boss."