

## Power to Witness in Word and Deed

*The Book of Acts*

**Acts 6:1-15**

**Read Acts 6:1-7.**


1. A glimpse back to Acts 2:5–11 gives us a taste of the diversity of people coming into the early church. The Hebraic Jews in today's passage are from Israel; their primary language is Aramaic. The Grecian Jews are from outside the land of Israel; their primary language is Greek. Both groups are deeply influenced by the culture and traditions from which they come.
  - a. What two positive things can you see going on in the church? (v. 1)
  - b. What problem has developed? (v. 1)
  - c. What does this problem threaten to destroy? (Acts 2:44, 46; 4:32)
2. Since its birth at Pentecost, this young church has faced numerous challenges. How do the apostles handle this new challenge? (vv. 2-3)
3. Why do you think it is important for the men called to this practical ministry to be "full of the Spirit and wisdom" (v. 3)? (Consider 1 Tim. 3:8–10.)
4. What does the commissioning of these men by prayer and the laying on of hands say about the responsibilities they have been given?
5. The apostles demonstrate wisdom as they solve this problem. What are the results?
 

vv. 3–4

v. 5a

v. 7a–b
6. What surprising group of people become "obedient to the faith" (v. 7) as a result of God's granting them "repentance and forgiveness of sins" (5:31)? (v. 7c)
7. What important principle of church life does the appointment of the seven men model? (Rom. 12:4–8)

**Read Acts 6:8-15.**

8. Luke puts together a little “resume” for Stephen in verse 8. Instead of trying to impress his readers with Stephen’s education, job experience, and accomplishments, what information does he include about him?
9. As the kingdom of God advances through Stephen’s ministry, what pattern continues that we’ve seen before in Acts? (v. 9)
10. Why can’t Stephen’s adversaries stand up to him? (v. 10;  \* 5:39)
11. What do they (the adversaries) resort to in their attempt to silence Stephen?  
v. 11  
  
v. 12a  
  
v. 12b  
  
vv. 13–14
12. How is Stephen’s experience like that of Jesus? (Mt. 26:57–61)
13. How could the example and teaching of Jesus be an encouragement to Stephen in the midst of such injustice? (Mt. 5:11–12; Jn. 15:18–16:4; 1 Pet. 2:21–23)
14. As the Sanhedrin seek to undermine Stephen’s credibility and turn people against him, how does this man who is full of faith and the Holy Spirit appear? (v. 15)
15. Stephen seems to be the main character of this chapter, yet the Spirit of Jesus is really the one who is front and center, filling his people, giving them wisdom, courage, faith, and peace in the midst of suffering. How does this encourage you?