**Faithful Deacons**

**Acts 6:1-7**

*So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.* Acts 2:31

*And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.* Acts 2:47

*But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.* Acts 4:4

*And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women.* Acts 5:14

***1****Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number…* Acts 6:1a

***1****Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.****2****And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables.* ***3****Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.* ***4****But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”****5****And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.****6****These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.* ***7****And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.* Acts 6:1-7

I. MURMURING Members

*…a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.*

*So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, “At evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against the Lord. For what are we that you would grumble against us?”* Ex 16:6-7

II. DELEGATED Duties

***2****And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables.* ***3****Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.* ***4****But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."*

III. PERSONAL Prerequisites

*Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.*

*8Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. 9They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. 10And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. 11Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. 12Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well.*1 Timothy 3:8-12

IV. SUCCESSFUL Solution

***7****And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.*

**One Last Thought:** As we align ourselves to the BIBLICAL model of church leadership, we can expect God to provide the GROWTH.