

the remotest part of the earth

#6, growing pains – Acts 6:1-15

Things were happening very fast! It had started with a lame man and now multitudes were being added to their number. Ananias and his wife Sapphira, remained united in their death. Peter and John had returned from jail and a beating only to continue to Acts 5:20, "Go, stand and speak to the people in the temple the whole message of this Life." as the angel had commanded. What could possibly happen now?

disciples, NT:3101 (*math-ay-tes'*); from NT:3129; a learner, i.e. pupil:
KJV - disciple.

New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance

1 Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic *Jews* (a Jew who speaks Greek only and not Hebrew or Aramaic, adopted Greek culture) against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food.

[1.] v:1, the disciples were increasing in number, From the list below, select the description that you think best describes this phrase.

- a) There were more followers than one could expect.
- b) Only guys were curious about the apostles' teaching.
- c) The number of people, committed to learning, was increasing.

[2.] v:1 again, disciples were increasing, How would you describe your own congregation's desire to learn God's word?

[3.] v:1 again, overlooked, In your own words, describe the problem.

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2 So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. 3 "Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.

[4.] v:2-3, select from among you, Jot down the characteristics of the people they were looking for.

men, NT:435 (*an-ayr'*); a primary word [compare NT:444]; a man (properly as an individual male):
KJV - fellow, husband, man, sir.

New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance

4 "But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

[5.] v:4, we will devote ourselves, From the following list choose why the apostles delegated this task to others.

- a) It was a cop out as labor was just not their thing.
- b) They wanted more people involved in the ministry.
- c) They were committed to prayerfully and accurately teaching all of God's word to the disciples.

5 The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch. 6 And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them.

[6.] v:5-6, and they chose, What were the steps, these verses describe, in involving the new workers in their task?

[7.] v:5-6 again, And these they brought before, From studying these verses, write down why or why you don't think this new responsibility was important.

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7 The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

8 And Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people.

9 But some men from what was called the Synagogue of the Freedmen, including both Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and argued with Stephen.

10 But they were unable to cope with the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.

[8.] v:7, spreading, increase, obedient, **Just from what you have read in this chapter write down some reasons for this growth.**

[9.] v:7 **again**, many of the priests were becoming obedient, **Who are these fellows?**

[10.] v:8, performing great wonders and signs, **OK, let's see, Stephen. He was new on the scene and from v:5, what were his credentials?**

[11.] v:8 **again**, wonders and signs among the people. **So far, from Acts 2:22, 2:43, 4:30, and 5:12 these miracles only involved the apostles. What's happening here?**

[12.] v:9, argued with Stephen. **In reality, were these individuals against Stephen or against the message the angel commanded to be spoken?**

[13.] v:10, unable to cope, **What did Stephen have that the "Freedmen" didn't have?**

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11 Then they secretly induced men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God."

12 And they stirred up the people, the elders and the scribes, and they came up to him and dragged him away and brought him before the Council.

[14.] v:10 again, Just a few verses back we read that (v:7) priests were becoming obedient to the faith. Why or why isn't it possible for these (freed) Jews to also become obedient to the faith?

[15.] v:11, secretly induced men, Write down why you think they had to secretly "stab Stephen in the back"?

[16.] v:11 again, blasphemous words against Moses, Back in lesson #3 we looked at a quote from Jeremiah 31:31-34 regarding the impending "new covenant" Does Jer.31:31 say that the new covenant is the same as the law of Moses or different?

[17.] v:11 again, Therefore what were those Jewish freedmen trying to protect?

[18.] v:12, brought him before the Council. OK, let's see now! If you remember what the council wanted to do to Peter and John, (Acts 5:33) write it down.

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13 They put forward false witnesses who said, "This man incessantly speaks against this holy place and the Law; 14 for we have heard him say that this Nazarene, Jesus, will destroy this place and alter the customs which Moses handed down to us."

15 And fixing their gaze on him, all who were sitting in the Council saw his face like the face of an angel.

[19.] v:13-14, false witnesses, What ever their incentive these guys sold out Stephen. How much was Judas paid to sell out our Savior?

[20.] v:13-14 again, false witnesses, What did Jesus mean when He spoke John 15:18-20.

[21.] In John 15:21, Christ explained why these deeds were done? What was the reason?

[22.] In John 15:22-24, What did Christ say regarding their feelings toward of God?

[23.] v:15, fixing their gaze on him, From this description of Stephen, why would you conclude that he was not afraid of this pack of wolves?

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NOTES