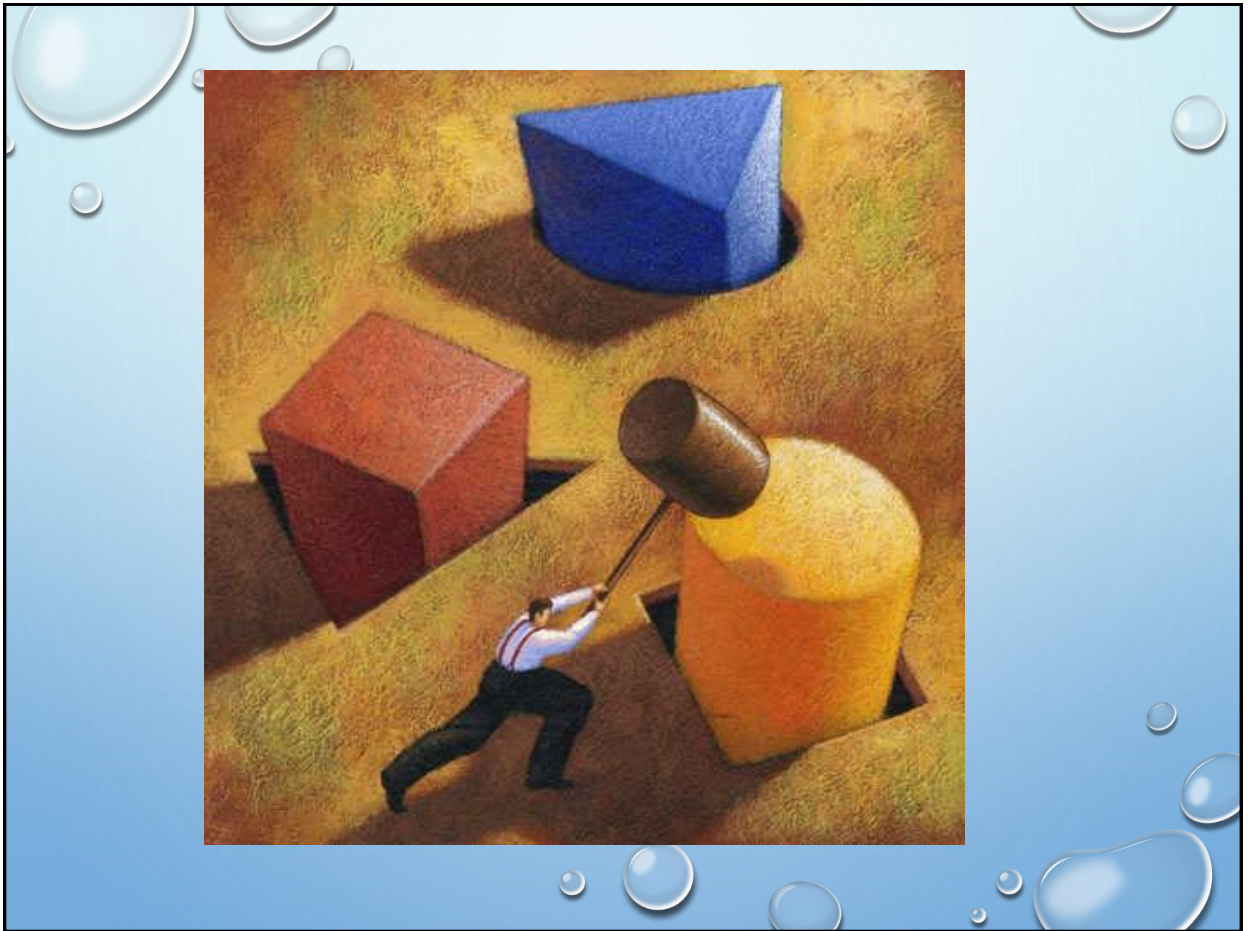




# LIVING WITH PURPOSE

SPIRIT LED SERVICE



## THE BROADER CONTEXT

- <sup>NAS</sup> **ACTS 1:8** BUT YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME UPON YOU; AND YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES BOTH IN JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND EVEN TO THE REMOTEST PART OF THE EARTH.“
  - DESCRIBES THE SPREADING OF THE GOSPEL UNDER THE POWER OF HOLY SPIRIT
    - BUILDING CHURCH AND ESTABLISHING KINGDOM
  - WE ARE STILL IN JERUSALEM AND THE CHURCH IS STILL ENTIRELY JEWISH
    - SPREADING BEGINS IN CHAPTER 8

## ACTS 1:8 IN ACTION

- ACTS 6:1-7 IS AN OBJECT LESSON OF 1:8
  - MODELS HOW WE CAN CONTRIBUTE TO PROCESS OF KINGDOM BUILDING

## THE STRUCTURE OF 6:1-7

- A CHURCH GROWING, PROBLEMS ARISE (V.1)
  - B APOSTLES DECLINE TO HELP (V.2)
    - C APOSTOLIC INSTRUCTION DELIVERED (V.3)
      - D SINGLE MINDED SERVICE (V.4)
    - C' APOSTOLIC INSTRUCTION FOLLOWED (V.5)
  - B' APOSTLES DEDICATE HELPERS (V.6)
- A' CHURCH GROWING, GOSPEL SPREADING

## A-A'

- <sup>NIV</sup> **ACTS 6:1** IN THOSE DAYS WHEN THE NUMBER OF DISCIPLES WAS INCREASING, THE GRECIAN JEWS AMONG THEM COMPLAINED AGAINST THE HEBRAIC JEWS BECAUSE THEIR WIDOWS WERE BEING OVERLOOKED IN THE DAILY DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD.
- <sup>NIV</sup> **ACTS 6:7** SO THE WORD OF GOD SPREAD. THE NUMBER OF DISCIPLES IN JERUSALEM INCREASED RAPIDLY, AND A LARGE NUMBER OF PRIESTS BECAME OBEDIENT TO THE FAITH.

## THE STRUCTURE OF 6:1-7

- A CHURCH GROWING, PROBLEMS ARISE (V.1)
  - B APOSTLES DECLINE TO HELP (V.2)
    - C APOSTOLIC INSTRUCTION DELIVERED (V.3)
      - D SINGLE MINDED SERVICE (V.4)
    - C' APOSTOLIC INSTRUCTION FOLLOWED (V.5)
  - B' APOSTLES DEDICATE HELPERS (V.6)
- A' CHURCH GROWING, GOSPEL SPREADING

## B-B'

- <sup>NIV</sup> **ACTS 6:2** SO THE TWELVE GATHERED ALL THE DISCIPLES TOGETHER AND SAID, "IT WOULD NOT BE RIGHT FOR US TO NEGLECT THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD OF GOD IN ORDER TO WAIT ON TABLES.
- <sup>NIV</sup> **ACTS 6:6** THEY PRESENTED THESE MEN TO THE APOSTLES, WHO PRAYED AND LAID THEIR HANDS ON THEM.



## THE STRUCTURE OF 6:1-7

- A CHURCH GROWING, PROBLEMS ARISE (V.1)
  - B APOSTLES DECLINE TO HELP (V.2)
    - C APOSTOLIC INSTRUCTION DELIVERED (V.3)
      - D SINGLE MINDED SERVICE (V.4)
    - C' APOSTOLIC INSTRUCTION FOLLOWED (V.5)
  - B' APOSTLES DEDICATE HELPERS (V.6)
- A' CHURCH GROWING, GOSPEL SPREADING

## C-C'

- <sup>NIV</sup> **ACTS 6:3** BROTHERS, CHOOSE SEVEN MEN FROM AMONG YOU WHO ARE KNOWN TO BE FULL OF THE SPIRIT AND WISDOM. WE WILL TURN THIS RESPONSIBILITY OVER TO THEM
- <sup>NIV</sup> **ACTS 6:5** THIS PROPOSAL PLEASED THE WHOLE GROUP. THEY CHOSE STEPHEN, A MAN FULL OF FAITH AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; ALSO PHILIP, PROCORUS, NICANOR, TIMON, PARMENAS, AND NICOLAS FROM ANTIOCH, A CONVERT TO JUDAISM.

## THE STRUCTURE OF 6:1-7

- A CHURCH GROWING, PROBLEMS ARISE (V.1)
  - B APOSTLES DECLINE TO HELP (V.2)
    - C APOSTOLIC INSTRUCTION DELIVERED (V.3)
      - D SINGLE MINDED SERVICE (V.4)
    - C' APOSTOLIC INSTRUCTION FOLLOWED (V.5)
  - B' APOSTLES DEDICATE HELPERS (V.6)
- A' CHURCH GROWING, GOSPEL SPREADING

## D

- <sup>NIV</sup> **ACTS 6:4** AND WE WILL GIVE OUR ATTENTION TO PRAYER AND THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD.“
  - THIS IS THE FOCAL POINT OF THE CHIASM
  - SINGLE MINDED SPIRIT LED SERVICE IS THE POINT OF THIS PASSAGE
  - THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS THE POWER BEHIND THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH BUT SINGLE MINDED SPIRIT LED SERVICE WAS THE MEANS OF THE GROWTH

## SUMMARY

- THE CHURCH CONTINUED TO GROW DRAMATICALLY BECAUSE;
  1. THE WORD OF GOD WAS FAITHFULLY PREACHED
  2. THE GOSPEL WAS FAITHFULLY SPREAD
  3. EACH CHRISTIAN SERVED AS LED AND EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT



## OUR ROLE

- WE PLAY OUR ROLE IN CHURCH GROWTH WHEN WE;
  1. PREACH THE WORD OF GOD AND SPREAD THE GOSPEL
  2. LIVE LIVES OF SPIRIT LED SERVICE

## 1. PREACHING THE WORD AND SPREADING THE GOSPEL

- THIS WAS THE CENTRAL MINISTRY OF THE APOSTLES BUT ALSO A NATURAL EXTENSION OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE FOR THE SEVEN
- WE ARE CALLED TO DO IT IN WHATEVER CAPACITY WE CAN
  - <sup>NAS</sup> **ROMANS 12:2** AND DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, THAT YOU MAY PROVE WHAT THE WILL OF GOD IS, THAT WHICH IS GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT.



## 2. SPIRIT LED SERVICE

- ANYTHING ELSE IS LIKE TRYING TO PUT SQUARE PEGS INTO ROUND HOLES
  - <sup>NAS</sup> **ROMANS 12:3** FOR THROUGH THE GRACE GIVEN TO ME I SAY TO EVERY MAN AMONG YOU NOT TO THINK MORE HIGHLY OF HIMSELF THAN HE OUGHT TO THINK; BUT TO THINK SO AS TO HAVE SOUND JUDGMENT, AS GOD HAS ALLOTTED TO EACH A MEASURE OF FAITH ... <sup>6</sup> AND SINCE WE HAVE GIFTS THAT DIFFER ACCORDING TO THE GRACE GIVEN TO US, *LET EACH EXERCISE THEM ACCORDINGLY:*



# CONCLUSIONS

## CALLED TO LOVE

- <sup>NAS</sup> **MARK 12:29** JESUS ANSWERED, "THE FOREMOST IS, 'HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; <sup>30</sup> AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' <sup>31</sup> "THE SECOND IS THIS, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' THERE IS NO OTHER COMMANDMENT GREATER THAN THESE."

## FULFILLING THIS CALL

- WE FULFILL THIS CALL TO LOVE BY LIVING LIVES OF SPIRIT LED SERVICE
  - <sup>NAS</sup> **ROMANS 12:9** LET LOVE BE WITHOUT HYPOCRISY. ABHOR WHAT IS EVIL; CLING TO WHAT IS GOOD. <sup>10</sup> BE DEVOTED TO ONE ANOTHER IN BROTHERLY LOVE; GIVE PREFERENCE TO ONE ANOTHER IN HONOR; <sup>11</sup> NOT LAGGING BEHIND IN DILIGENCE, FERVENT IN SPIRIT, SERVING THE LORD;

- WHEN WE SINGLE MINDEDLY DEVOTE OURSELVES TO LIVES OF SPIRIT LED SERVICE WE NOT ONLY FULFILL OUR CALL TO LOVE BUT WE DEMONSTRATE SINCERE WORSHIP FOR GOD
  - <sup>NAS</sup> **ROMANS 12:1** I URGE YOU THEREFORE, BRETHREN, BY THE MERCIES OF GOD, TO PRESENT YOUR BODIES A LIVING AND HOLY SACRIFICE, ACCEPTABLE TO GOD, *WHICH IS* YOUR SPIRITUAL SERVICE OF WORSHIP.