

# **Unstuck: How the Early Church Changed the World**

## **Lesson 8**

Acts 6:1-7

October 31, 2021

### **How to Multiply Volunteers**

#### **Introduction**

Have you ever had to recruit and organize a team of volunteers at church? The process often goes like this:

- Explain the need for volunteers for an upcoming event
- Explain how people can volunteer
- Ask for volunteers to step forward
- Ask individuals who they think could be a good fit
- Ask your friends and family to help with unfilled jobs
- Find more volunteers to cover last-minute cancellations
- Run around and solve problems that occur

To find enough people willing to volunteer, church leaders are often left taking anyone who shows the slightest interest in helping. If they are willing, they are good volunteers. But those that volunteer may not be the best suited to the task at hand. What they are being asked to do may not be part of their God-given gifts, resulting in problems. Or the same people are asked to volunteer at every event in the church, which can lead to resentment, frustration, and fatigue. In the end, to prevent these problems from arising, the church leaders step in and take on volunteer roles to fill the need instead of serving the church body according to their spiritual gifts.

***Memory verse: “Brothers and sisters, 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 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”—Acts 6:3-4***

Pray and read Acts 6:1-7. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

**What does the passage say?**

1. Why did the Hellenistic Jews complain about the Hebraic Jews? (Acts 6:1)
2. Why would it not be right for the disciples to wait tables? (Acts 6:2)
3. What qualities were the seven chosen men supposed to have? (Acts 6:3)
4. To what would the twelve then give their attention? (Acts 6:4)
5. How did the group feel about this proposal? (Acts 6:5)
6. Who did they choose? (Acts 6:5)
7. What did the apostles do to the chosen men? (Acts 6:6)

8. What happened as a result? (Acts 6:7)

**What does the passage mean?**

1. What are the Biblical principles for selecting volunteers? (1 Samuel 16:7; Luke 6:12-13; Acts 6:3; 1 Corinthians 1:26-30)

2. What has God equipped us with to serve His kingdom? (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-30; Ephesians 4:7, 11-12; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

3. What are the major responsibilities of disciples of Christ? (Matthew 22:36-40, 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Galatians 6:2; Titus 3:1-2)

4. How should we view each person serving in the church?  
(John 15:5-8; Romans 12:3-5; 1 Corinthians 12:21-27;  
Ephesians 4:15-16)
  
5. What should the leaders of the church be like?  
(Matthew 20:26-28, 24:45-47; Acts 20:28; Philippians  
2:3-4; 1 Peter 5:2-3)

### **Applying the passage**

1. What obstacles keep you from being filled with the Holy Spirit?

2. What are your spiritual gifts? If you don't know, go to [spiritualgiftstest.com](http://spiritualgiftstest.com) to take the test there and find out, then list them below.

3. What keeps you from using those in service to God?