



**The Overcomers Christian Fellowship International  
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**OCFI BIBLE STUDY.**

Date: 16/11/15      **ACTS OF THE APOSTLES - Chapter Six.**

**Memory Verse: Acts 6:8 "And Stephen, full of faith & power, did great wonders & miracles among the people".**

**OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING CHAPTER SIX.**

- 1) To note how the church in Jerusalem handled their internal problems.
- 2) To examine the process of selecting and appointing those who serve in the Lord's church.
- 3) To evaluate the charges that were brought against Stephen.

**OUTLINE**

**I. THE PROBLEM OF SPIRITUAL PASTORAL CARE & SELECTION OF THE SEVEN (1-7)**

**A. THE PROBLEM (1)**

1. As the church grew (the 5<sup>th</sup> specific reference to increase in numbers), there arose a complaint.
2. The Hellenists (Jews who spoke mainly Greek) were complaining against the Hebrews.
3. The Hellenistic widows (who had no other means of provision, were cared for from a common purse) were being neglected during the daily distribution.

**B. THE SOLUTION (SPREADING THE WORKLOAD BY DELEGATION) (3-6)**

1. The twelve apostles summon the multitude of disciples
  - a. It was not good that the apostles leave the Word of God to serve tables
  - b. The congregation should select seven men that the apostles might appoint
    - Of good reputation ; full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom (both spiritual & practical qualifications are required).
  - c. So the apostles might give themselves to prayer and the Word of God.
2. The multitude is pleased, and select seven men
  - a. Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit: Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch
3. The seven men are appointed by the apostles
  - a. Having prayed
  - b. Laying hands on them (a visual aid of the process of giving authority to this group to serve).

**C. THE RESULT (7)**

1. The Word of God spread, the number of the disciples multiplied.
2. Many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

**QUESTIONS: (1) How can we play our part to ensure our church grows numerically?**

*'... greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world' 1 John 4:4*



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**(2) How far should the church have the same structures as secular organizations?.  
How should they differ?.**

**II. THE CHARGES AGAINST STEPHEN (8-15)**

**A. HIS MINISTRY (8-10)**

1. Full of faith and power, he did great wonders and signs among the people. The apostles seemed to have passed this authority on to Stephen when he was commissioned for ministry.
2. Disputed with some from the Synagogue of the Freedmen (those who shared Stephen's Greek language & cultural background).
  - a. Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia
  - b. Who were unable to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke

**B. THE ACCUSATIONS (11-14)**

1. They secretly induced men to charge him with blasphemy against Moses and God
2. They stirred up the people, the elders and the scribes (i.e. recruited some false witnesses & lobbied the religious leadership) to come and kidnap him & bring him to the (Sanhedrin) council.
3. They set up false witnesses who charged Stephen with blasphemy against:
  - a. The holy place (temple): "We have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place" (Matt.26:61).
  - b. Against the law (of Moses) "...and change the customs which Moses delivered to us"

**C. HIS COMPOSURE (15)**

1. All who sat in the council looked steadfastly at him.
2. They saw his face as the face of an angel.

**REVIEW QUESTIONS:**

**1) What are the main two points of this chapter?**

- (1-7)
- (8-15)

**2) As the church in Jerusalem grew in number, who raised a complaint? Why? (1)**

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**3) When the apostles summoned the disciples, what did they first say to them? (2)**

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**4) What proposal did the apostles offer? (3)**

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**5) What qualifications did the apostles lay down for the selection of the seven? (3)**

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- 6) What would this enable the apostles to do? (4)  
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- 7) What were the names of the seven men who were selected? What is unique about their names? (5)  
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- 8) How did the apostles appoint those whom the congregation selected? (6)  
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- 9) As the Word of God spreads, what two things occurred? (7)  
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- 10) What did Stephen, one of the seven, do among the people? (8)  
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- 11) Who began to dispute with Stephen? (9)  
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- 12) What were they unable to do? (10)  
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- 13) What did they secretly induce men to say? (11)  
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- 14) What did they stir up the people, elders, and scribes to do? (12)  
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- 15) What did they set up false witnesses to say? (13-14)  
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- 16) As those in the council looked at Stephen, what did they see? (15)  
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**PRAYER POINTS:**

- (1) O LORD MY FATHER, MAKE ME A BATTLE AXE, IN YOUR HAND FOR YOUR GLORY, IN JESUS NAME.
- (2) LET ALL SPIRITUAL CAGES INHIBITING MY SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL PROGRESS, BE ROASTED BY THE HOLY GHOST FIRE, IN JESUS NAME.
- (3) EVERY CONSPIRACY AGAINST MY MINISTRY BY THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS, BE FRUSTRATED, IN JESUS NAME.

*'... greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world" 1 John 4:4*