

OPENING UP: Acts 6:1-7 celebrates the numerical growth of the early church and the increasing influence of the Word of God. Acts 6:7 says that the word of God increased. That means it had a consistently growing influence. How would you describe what that looks like practically? How do you know when the Word of God is increasing in a church? What about in your own heart and life?

1 Was it arrogant of the apostles to refuse to serve tables and instead delegate to others to take on the task?

♥ *How can you gauge the priority that the Word has in your life?*

♥ *The church in Acts 6 faced a subtle, yet dangerous threat to keeping the Word most important. What are some of the more subtle (and even not so subtle) distractions that threaten to steal your focus from keeping God's word as central to your life?*

💡 *What can you do this week to prioritize your own engagement with the Word?*

2 When the church was to look for leaders to assist the Apostles in ministry, they were to choose men who were marked by a good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit, and full of wisdom (Acts 6:3). Why do you think those particular qualities were so important for church ministry?

⚙️ *Compare the qualifications above with what the world often values in its leaders. How is God's way both countercultural and better?*


🗨️ *It can sometimes be difficult to find people to fill the leadership roles in the church. Why do you think that is?*


⚙️ *How can a church hold up both God's requirements for spiritual authenticity and faithfulness and encourage people to share in the load of ministry needs?*

♥ *Which of the above qualifications do you find most convicting? How can we pray that God would grow you?*

3 **Prioritizing the Word isn't just a responsibility of pastors.** It is the responsibility of the entire congregation. In His book, *Word-centered Church* Jonathan Leeman envisions a church where the word is preached and taught in the church, and then resonates and reverberates in the hearts of the people, and finally echoes into conversations and situations throughout the week. What does that look like practically, and how can you be more a part of that reverberating Word ministry?

4 **Without a healthy view of the church as a body and the diversity of the Spirit's gifts, we can lose sight of what is most important in our service and the service of others.** How can you struggle at times viewing your ministry or the ministry of others rightly?

 *How does a healthy understanding of the diversity spiritual gifts help understand the situation (see also Rom. 12:3-8)?*

 *How can the following verses help realign our thinking about ministry: 1 Peter 4:10-11, 2 Corinthians 4:1-2, 1 Corinthians 3:5-9, Galatians 6:4-5, Ephesians 4:11-16,*

5 **In Acts 6:7, many priests who were previously opposed to Jesus became followers.** Survey Acts 4:1-3, 5:17-18, 33, 40 and discuss what that opposition looked like.

 *What does this reveal about the transformative power of the gospel message?*

 *How does this challenge us to share the gospel with those who might be hostile or indifferent toward it today?*

 *Who are you sharing the gospel with and praying for who you are tempted to think is too lost to save?*

6 **In Acts 6:1-7, how do the both the Apostles and the newly chosen lead servants imitate Jesus in particular ways?** (see 1 Pet. 2:21-25; Luke 22:24-27, Philippians 2:4-10)?