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*Wounds of a Disciple Making Church  
Be Aware and Prepared  
Acts 5:41 - 6:7*

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Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. <sup>42</sup>And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus. <sup>1</sup>Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. <sup>2</sup>And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said: It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. <sup>3</sup>Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. <sup>4</sup>But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word. <sup>5</sup>And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. <sup>6</sup>These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. <sup>7</sup>And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

**The Church must respond to external dishonor and internal complaints/neglect wisely & humbly realizing:**

1. **Problems** arising from growth become opportunities **vs 5:41-6:1**
2. **Priorities** need to be maintained by the leaders **vs 6:2,4**
3. **Prerequisites** have already been determined by God **vs 3**

**Church – Pick out from among you, men of:**

**1. Good reputation:**

*“And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father... Serve them sincerely because of your reverent fear of the Lord. Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people”. **Colossians 3:17, 22b-23 NLT***

## **2. Full of the Spirit:**

*“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do... But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control...” Galatians 5:13-17, 22-23a*

## **3. Full of wisdom:**

*“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.” Psalm 111:10*

*“If you are wise and understanding in God’s ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don’t cover up the truth with boasting and lying... <sup>16</sup>For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is sincere. James 3:13-14, 16-17*

## **4. Public participation in the process pleases & prioritizes!**

*<sup>5</sup>And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose... <sup>6</sup>These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. <sup>7</sup>And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. Acts 6:5-7*

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