

ACTS

CHAPTER 6:1-7

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX 166

TITLE:

“ THE PERFECT CHURCH ”

THEME:

Acts 1:8

“But you shall receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and “**you shall be witnesses to Me**” in **Jerusalem**, and in all **Judea** and **Samaria**, and to the **end of the earth.** “

The Secrets to Healthy Church growth is found in

Acts 5:42

**And daily in the temple (publicly), and in every house (Privately),
they did not cease *teaching and preaching* Jesus as the Christ.**

Satan will not *leave it unchecked...*

1 Corinthians 16:9

For a great and effective door has opened to me,

and there are many adversaries.

How Can We Find the Perfect Church

when the church is made up of imperfect people...

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, **:10** nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. **:11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Holy Spirit of our God.**

The Greatest Need Today *in the life of every believer is the power of the Holy Spirit;*

“But you shall receive POWER “WHEN” the Holy Spirit has come upon you; *a repeated event*

But The Church has “A” problem:

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober, **(self-controlled)** be vigilant **(alert)** because ***your adversary***
the devil, walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Satan's Workings are often Covert and Disguised

2 Corinthians 10:3-4

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. :4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal (**earthy, human origins**) but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

Satan's desire is that we never
receive the power of the Holy Spirit or that he robs us of that power.

The Arch-Enemy (*adversary*) of the Church is Satan

A.) Problems Within the Church vv. 1

Now in those days (*the days of the **Going Forth** of the word of God*)

When God is at work in a fellowship there will be a
Preaching and Teaching Ministry

- When & Wherever *the word of God is proclaimed you can expect certain guaranteed results.*

#1 Changed lives

Psalm 107:20

He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

#2 Empowered lives

Micah 3:8

I am full of power by the Spirit of the LORD,

#3 Visionary lives

Daniel 11:32

"...the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.

#4 Faithful Lives

Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

#5 Fruitful Lives

Mark 4:20

And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, sixty, and some an hundred.

Growth Invites Problems

Verse 1B

HELENISTS

were Greek-speaking Jewish Christians born outside of Palestine

HEBREWS

were Aramaic-speaking, Palestinian Jews Christians

Culturally they were **Different**
and they didn't like one another for it.

Murmuring

Murmur

GRK

gogguzo (gong-good'-zo)
to grumble or to whine

Grumbling & Whining

1 Corinthians 10:9-10

...let us not tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; **:10** nor **murmur**, as some of them also **murmured**, and were destroyed by the destroyer. **:11** Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition,

Exodus 16:8

...for the LORD hears your murmurings which ye murmur against him!

Murmur

HEB

luwn (loon)
*to cross over as in treason, to be argumentative with words, to complain):
to hold a grudge.*

 ~~It's a Heart Murmur~~ 

Out of the Abundance of the Heart... the mouth speaks

Numbers 14:27

"How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who **murmur against Me?**
I have heard the **complaints** which the children of Israel **murmur** against Me.

Time Had Come For the Church to Learn
That it was to be an extension of the personality of Jesus Himself

Galatians 3:28

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is
neither male nor female; **for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**

Colossians 3:10-11

put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Christ who created us, :11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, **circumcised** nor **uncircumcised**, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, ((suit or T-shirt, wing tips or flip-flops)) **but Christ is all and in all.**

Satan looks for an unlocked door

once inside he looks for a heart murmur, bitterness, anger, pride maybe ambition or jealousy...

Ephesians 4:31

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, (Sounds Like Joe's Bar & Grill) along with every form of malice.

1 Corinthians 3:1-5

I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. :2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; :3 for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? :4 For when one says, "I am of Paul (**Baptist**)," and another, "I am of Apollos, (**Lutheran**)" are you not carnal? :5 Who then is Paul (**Baptist**), and who is Apollos (**Lutheran**), but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one?

Philippians 2:14

"Do all things without complaining and disputing," **WHICH GIVES BIRTH TO...**
The works of the flesh... hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambition, divisions & Clicks

B.) Priorities Within the Church vv. 2

The Twelve, *affirming the office given to Matthias (Acts 1:26)*

In God's Government - He has established the Pastors to be teachers of the word

Ephesians 4:11

And The Holy Spirit has ordained some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, **and some pastors (directing) / teachers (instructing)**

The Internal Affairs of the Church

- #1 *Does the need interfere with the PREPARATION for the preaching & teaching of the word.*
- #2 *The Need Anticipates the ministry.*
- #3 *Pray about who God is raising up to fill that need.*

You might think that This church needs more Children's Ministers

You might think that This church needs more Greeters

You might think that This church needs more Ushers

You might think that This church needs more Alms

You are the One He's Asking to do it

C.) *Positions* Within the Church vv. 3-4

The Qualifications (Why) *Because people will murmur*

- a.) *Good Reputation. (unable to discredit)*
- b.) *Full of the Holy Spirit. (Supplied with... Fruit)*
- c.) *Full of Wisdom (Supplied with **discretion**, cautious character)*
- d.) *Submissive to authority, (Men that are able to be Appointed)*

The Ministry & Authority

Where Leadership has missed its mark

What has been your Experience...

Forced Labor, Mind Games (do this and you win), "Association"

Be careful at this very Point

In Ministry, *Who has affected you concerning ministry ?*

Was it Scriptural, Was it Gracious, Was it Patient, Was it Gentle,

Was it encouraging. Has it Developed you forward in Christ ?

Appointed Assistance

1 Timothy 3:6

not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.

Exodus 18:17-21

:21 "Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.

The Place of the minister in the church are to be at

- #1 Prayer, prepares our hearts to be used by God
- #2 Word enables us to be used by the Holy Spirit.

Give Ourselves

GRK

proskartereo (pros-kar-ter-eh'-o)

to be earnest towards, to exercise at it, or to throw yourself into

"Those who teach the Bible must spend time in the presence of the Lord to receive the message and power HE desires for the church"

- you can buy a sermon
- you can steal a sermon
- but nothing will happen unless you give birth to a sermon

D.) *Power (retained)* Within the Church vv. 5-7

Verse 5

As the Church Grows New Problems *Arise.*

The Holy Spirit Converts those problems into a more effective ministry.

Do you yield to the difficulties or do you Learn from them ?

Was there any unfairness ??? *There is none mentioned, perhaps only imagined. When we begin to think self-centered thoughts, it's amazing how much the church can turn against.*

A Man Full of Faith and The Holy Spirit

GRK. speaks of possession. Not that he had the Holy Spirit,

But rather, The Holy Spirit Had him

Galatians 5:25

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Verse 5b

All the men appointed had *Greek names, meaning they were Hellenists. - so works the holy spirit.*
This a sign of excellent leadership

Verse 6

The laying on of hands is *a response to the calling of God which is already evident by the fruit present.*

Verse 7

The Result is that *the word of God spread. This verse is the example of Godly leadership in action*

Is there a Perfect Church...?

Not Yet

Under Construction

Matthew 16:18

"... I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.