



Right Priorities - First Things First

“Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables” (Acts 6:2).

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“And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith” (Acts 5:35).

“And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. 2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. 3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. 4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. 5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: 6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. 7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.” (Acts 6:1-7).

Church growth has its own associated problems and solutions. Lapses in administration resulted in murmuring. If left unattended, it had the potential of destroying the church. If attended to in the wrong way, it also had the potential of damaging the Church. With Godly wisdom, they delegated the task to **“seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom”** (vs 3) while they concentrated on the key priority of giving themselves **“continually to prayer and the ministry of the word”** (vs 4). The net result **“And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith”** (vs 7). The salient lesson here is on the priority of God’s word in problem solving. First things must always come first if effective problem solving and lasting victory is the desired results as illustrated in these scriptures.

- 1) Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.
- 2) Deuteronomy 17:18,19 And it shall be, when he

sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites

- 3) Isaiah 55:8,9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.
- 4) Hosea 8:12 I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing. Jesus illustrated this in His teachings in Matthew 5:18-48.
- 5) Isaiah 50:10-11 Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God. 11 Behold, all ye that kindle a fire, that compass yourselves about with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks that ye have kindled. This shall ye have of mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow.
- 6) Jeremiah 2:13 For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.
- 7) Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

In successfully handling the issues and solving problems in any area of life, we must not allow the philosophies and cunning craftiness of men (Ephesians 4:14) traditions of the elders (Matthew 15:3; Mark 7:3,6-9,13) opposition of science (1 Timothy 6:20,21) or other carnal considerations that are highly rated as the wisdom of men, to replace the word of God.

With God’s word at the centre, the circumference will hold firmly.