

Big Bold Leaders

Big Church, Part 6

Acts 6-9, Romans 12:1-8

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Review

- The church (grk. ekklesia) is a gathering or movement, not a building, location, hierarchy, or organization.
- The first recorded prayer of the brand new church: Acts 4:29-30
- How a church prays shows whether it has strayed... we need to pray "big prayers."
- Our culture of comfort has eroded our boldness.
- Controversies will arise, Grace not Legalism should be applied

6¹In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jew among them murmured against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. ² So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³ Choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this task over to them ⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." ⁵ They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. ⁶ They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷ So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

Acts 6:1-6 NIV

1. Deacons come from a Greek word diakonia that means _____ .

2. New church leadership had to be known following qualifications: (a) _____ and _____ .

6⁸ Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹ Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen—Jews of Cyrene, Alexandria, Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen ¹⁰ But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke.

Acts 6:8-10

3. The first Christian martyr was _____

9¹ Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵ "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. ⁶ "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

Acts 9:1-5

4. Saul of Tarus actively _____ Christians, and was responsible for many deaths.

5. Jesus appears personally to Saul, and there is a radical conversion and _____ of his life and character

9²⁶ When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. ²⁹ He talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews, but they tried to kill him. ³⁰ The believers then took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. ³¹ Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

Acts 9:26-31

12¹ Therefore, I urge you, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Stop conforming to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. ³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Romans 12:1-8