

MAYBRIDGE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

EVERYONE *EVERYWHERE*

Following the book we call 'Acts'

EVERYONE EVERYWHERE

PART TWELVE

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27 SEPTEMBER 2026

DISCUSS



**WHAT'S SOMETHING YOU THINK YOU'RE GOOD AT -
BUT WHERE OTHER PEOPLE MIGHT DISAGREE?**

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

ACTS 6V1-7

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. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”

ACTS 6V1-7

This proposal pleased the whole group. 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. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. 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.

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ACTS 6V1-7

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If someone who didn't follow Jesus watched the way we handle things like conflict, power, money, cultural differences and vulnerable people, what might they think we believe about Jesus?

Is there anything particular that you think needs to change

a) for you personally

b) for us as a church if we're to represent Jesus better?

Direct Impact:

1. 'the word of God spread'
2. 'the number of disciples grew'
3. 'a large number of priests became obedient to the faith'

Great Principles Reap Great Results:

- Address conflicts quickly
- Listen to concerns attentively
- Have sensible structures in place
- Work as a team, not siloed
- Be sensitive to cultural differences
- Release leaders into their strengths
- Choose leaders based on character above all
- Entrust and empower carefully
- Communicate well with those affected
- Pray!

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- = Growth of God's work***

Three Questions for Maybridge

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Do we see all the different ways people are called to God's purposes as valuable?

Does the news about Jesus permeate everything about us, not just some spiritual or moral convictions?

DISCUSS



The passage tells us that church growth sometimes requires change and restructuring. How do you personally tend to respond when something familiar needs to change?

The gospel should 'permeate everything about us'. What would it look like for Jesus to shape an area of your life that you don't normally think of as 'spiritual'?

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