

THE BOOK OF  
**ACTS**  
LIFE IN THE SPIRIT



Acts 6: 1-7

Message + Mission + Multiply

## Acts 5: 41 NIV

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*The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.*



## Acts 5: 42 NIV

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*Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.*

# Question

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What was happening with the Church as a result of being persecuted, removing sin and going house to house spreading the good news?



# Act 6:1 NIV

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*In those days when the  
number of disciples was  
increasing*

# Question

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What can happen at work when you get a large number of people working together on a project?



# Act 6:1 NIV

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*In those days when the  
number of disciples was  
increasing*

## Act 6:1 NIV

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*the Hellenistic Jews among them **complained** against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.*



# Act 6:1 KJV

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*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 ministrations.*

# Satan's Attempts to Stop the Church

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## I. Ridicule



## Acts 2:13 NIV

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Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

# Satan's Attempts to Stop the Church

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1. Ridicule
2. Intimidation



## Acts 4:1 NIV

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The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people.

# Satan's Attempts to Stop the Church

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1. Ridicule
2. Intimidation
3. Force



Acts 4: 3 NIV

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*They seized Peter and*  
*John*

# Satan's Attempts to Stop the Church

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1. Ridicule
2. Intimidation
3. Force
4. Jail



# Acts 4: 3 NIV

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they put them in jail  
until the next day.

# Satan's Attempts to Stop the Church

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1. Ridicule
2. Intimidation
3. Force
4. Legislation



## Acts 4:18 NIV

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Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

# Satan's Attempts to Stop the Church

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1. Ridicule
2. Intimidation
3. Force
4. Legislation
5. Threats



Acts 4: 21 NIV

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*After further threats  
they let them go.*

# Satan's Attempts to Stop the Church

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1. Ridicule
2. Intimidation
3. Force
4. Legislation
5. Threats
6. Sin in the Church



# Acts 5:1 NIV

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*Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property.*

# Satan's Attempts to Stop the Church

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1. Ridicule
2. Intimidation
3. Force
4. Legislation
5. Threats
6. Sin in the Church
7. Flogging



## Acts 5: 40 NIV

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His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

# Satan's Attempts to Stop the Church

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1. Ridicule
2. Intimidation
3. Force
4. Legislation
5. Threats
6. Sin in the Church
7. Flogging
8. Murmuring



# Act 6:1 KJV

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*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 ministrations.*

# Question

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Why do you think  
satan believes  
murmuring can stop  
the Church?



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Because it worked  
before!

## Psalm 106: 23-25 KJV

Therefore he said that he would destroy them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, to turn away his wrath, lest he should destroy them.



Psalm 106: 23-25 KJV

*Yea, they despised the  
pleasant land, they  
believed not his word:*

**But murmured in their  
tents,** and hearkened not  
unto the voice of the Lord.

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Murmuring stirred  
God's wrath against  
the Israelites!



# Question

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Where is the  
murmuring occurring?

# Psalm 106: 23-25 KJV

*Yea, they despised the  
pleasant land, they  
believed not his word:*

**But murmured in their  
tents,** and hearkened not  
unto the voice of the Lord.



# Question

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Does murmuring occur  
more frequently at  
Church or after  
Church?

## Numbers 14: 1-4 NIV

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*And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron:*



## Numbers 14: 1-4 NIV

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*and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!*

## Numbers 14: 1-4 NIV

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*And wherefore hath the Lord brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.*



# Question

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Why is murmuring  
such a powerful tool  
for satan to use  
against the Church?

# Question

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What was happening  
that made satan so  
determined to stop  
the Church?



# Act 6:1 NIV

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*In those days when the  
number of disciples was  
increasing*

## Act 6:1 NIV

---

*the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.*



## Hebraic Jews

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Hebraic Jews were traditionalists that had always lived in the land of the patriarchs and spoke Hebrew (the language their fathers spoke). They also lived near the temple and regularly worshiped there.

## Hellenistic Jews

Lived outside of the Jewish homeland. They had adopted the language and culture of the Greeks. They were often looked down on as inferior and treated as outsiders by Hebraic Jews.



# Question

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What was the  
complaint and who  
made it?

## Act 6:1 NIV

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*the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.*



# Question

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Is taking care of  
widows a function of  
the Church?

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Please turn to

James 1: 27



## James 1: 27 NIV

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*Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world*

## Act 6: 2 NIV

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*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."*



# Question

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Who did the Apostles  
gather together?

## Act 6: 2 NIV

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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.



# Question

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Who does it mean that the Apostles were waiting on tables and how does that relate to the complaint?

## Strong's Concordance

**trapeza:** a table, dining table

**Original Word:** τράπεζα, ης, ἡ

**Part of Speech:** Noun, Feminine

**Transliteration:** trapeza

**Phonetic Spelling:** (trap'-ed-zah)

**Definition:** a table, dining table

**Usage:** a table, (a) for food or banqueting, (b) for money-changing or business.



In other words...

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"It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God to manage the finances and daily operations of the Church"

The Church had grown so large that the Apostles were unable to use their spiritual gifts because they were busy managing the day to day operations of the Church!



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Please turn to

1 Peter 4:10

## 1 Peter 4: 10 NIV

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*



## Act 6: 3 NIV

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*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*

# Question

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What qualifications were the Apostles looking for in those selected to manage the daily operations of the Church?



## Act 6: 3 NIV

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*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*

# Question

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What does it mean to  
be full of the Spirit?



# Question

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What does it mean to  
be full of wisdom?

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Please turn to

Proverbs 9:10



## Proverbs 9: 10 NIV

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*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

## Act 6: 4 NIV

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*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*



## Act 6: 5 NIV

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*and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”*

## Act 6: 6 NIV

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*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.*



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Note the names!

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All seven are  
Greek! All are  
Hellenistic Jews!



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What does this  
demonstrate?

The fact that the  
Church didn't choose  
three Hebraic Jews  
and Three Hellenistic  
Jews demonstrates  
their desire for  
complete unity!



Since the  
Hellenistic Jews  
felt overlooked  
they put Hellenistic  
Jews in charge of  
the program.

## Act 6: 7 NIV

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*They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.*



# Question

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What do these acts  
of prayer and laying  
on of hands tell us  
about who is leading  
the Church?

Next week

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Please read

Acts 6:8-8:3