



AFTER EASTER #4:

Difficulties, Discontent...and Deacons

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Text: Acts 6:1-7

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Acts 6:1 Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.

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² And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables.

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³ Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.

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**4[†] But we will devote
ourselves to prayer and to
the ministry of the word.”**

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⁵ And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.

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***6 These they set before the
apostles, and they prayed
and laid their hands on
them.***

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⁷ And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

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**1. *Difficulties*: Every Church
Experiences Them - How We
Handle Them will Determine
our Congregational Health**

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**2. *Discontent: Occurs
Easily When Anyone is
Overlooked Or When
Someone is Self-Important
(or Their Kids)***

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***3. Deacons: Should be Biblical,
Mature, Calming, Strong, Faithful,
and Lead and Serve by Example -
Not Dictatorship***

***(Truth: All Men at Church Should
Strive to Be This!)***

CONSIDER IT PURE JOY, MY BROTHERS,
WHENEVER YOU FACE TRIALS
OF MANY KINDS, BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT
THE TESTING OF YOUR FAITH
DEVELOPS PERSEVERANCE. PERSEVERANCE
MUST FINISH ITS
WORK SO THAT YOU MAY BE
MATURE AND COMPLETE,
NOT LACKING ANYTHING.

JAMES 1:2-4