

IT TAKES COURAGE

Part 1

“It Takes Courage to Face Internal Conflict”

Acts 6:1-7

Presented by

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January 19, 2020

R. A. Torrey once lamented about seminary graduates in his day:

We think that if a man is pious and has had a college and seminary education and comes out of it reasonably orthodox, he is now ready for our hands to be laid upon him and to be ordained to preach the gospel. But Jesus Christ said, “No.” There is another preparation so essential that a man must not undertake this work until he has received it. “*Tarry* [literally ‘sit down’] . . . *until you are endued with power from on high*” (Luke 24:49).¹

Throughout a unique season in Acts, we see God advance His Word among the early believers by:

1. Impressing them with His power
2. Impowering them to preach
3. Proving them through problems

NOTE THIS

Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-34

This is a rare moment in Church history:

- All were in unity (one heart)
- All were Spirit-led
- All were yielded to godly leaders
- All were aware of true concerns
- All were revered in the community
- All were generous
- All were in awe of God

≠ Israel in the desert ≠ The Church today

UH OH

- An awkward problem arose (v. 1).
- Leadership priorities were clarified (vv. 2, 4).
- Qualified people were identified (vv. 3, 5, 6). (1 Timothy 3:8-13)
- The Word's power was magnified (v. 7).

THREE CLARIFYING QUESTIONS

- If the church were asked to name people who were spiritually deep, financially generous, filled with compassion, and always serving . . . would they pick you?
- Do I know enough about those around me to name someone to that list?
- Does making this list spark jealousy or praise?