

Acts 6:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

Analysis

The qualifications for deacons—good reputation, Spirit-fullness, and wisdom—establish that even practical ministry requires spiritual character. The apostles' directive to 'look ye out' engages the congregation in leadership selection, modeling shared governance. These standards ensure that administrative service maintains spiritual integrity.

Historical Context

The selection of the Seven resolved Greek-speaking Jewish Christians' complaint about food distribution neglect. This first recorded church office (proto-deacons) allowed apostles to maintain prayer and word ministry while ensuring equitable care.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Why does practical ministry require the same spiritual qualifications as teaching ministry?
2. How should churches today involve congregations in leadership selection?

Interlinear Text

ἐπισκέψασθε οὖν, ἀδελφοί ἄνδρας ἐξ ὑμῶν
look ye out Wherefore brethren men among you
G1980 G3767 G80 G435 G1537 G5216

μαρτυρούμενους ἐπτὰ πλήρεις πνεύματος Ἅγιου καὶ
of honest report seven full Ghost of the Holy and
G3140 G2033 G4134 G4151 G40 G2532

σοφίας οὓς καταστήσομεν ἐπὶ τῆς χρείας ταύτης
wisdom whom we may appoint over business G3778
G4678 G3739 G2525 G1909 G3588 G5532

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 1:13 (Parallel theme): Take you wise men, and understanding, and known among your tribes, and I will make them rulers over you.

1 Timothy 5:10 (Holy): Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.

3 John 1:12 (Parallel theme): Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true.

Isaiah 28:6 (Spirit): And for a spirit of judgment to him that sitteth in judgment, and for strength to them that turn the battle to the gate.

Isaiah 28:26 (Parallel theme): For his God doth instruct him to discretion, and doth teach him.

Acts 10:22 (Holy): And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.

Acts 1:21 (Parallel theme): Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

Acts 2:4 (Holy): And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 6:6 (Parallel theme): Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.

Acts 22:12 (Parallel theme): And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there,