

# Acts 6:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

## Analysis

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The selection of seven men, all bearing Greek names, demonstrates the majority's willingness to entrust ministry to the offended minority. Stephen and Philip's future prominence shows these 'deacons' weren't limited to food service but became powerful evangelists. This principle of empowering potential leaders proved fruitful.

## Historical Context

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Stephen ('crown'), Philip ('lover of horses'), and others with Greek names indicate Hellenistic Jewish background. Their appointment around AD 32-33 satisfied the Greek-speaking Christians' concerns while unleashing gifted leaders.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. What does the choice of Hellenistic deacons teach about resolving church conflicts?
2. How can churches identify and empower emerging leaders through serving roles?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ ἤρεσεν ὁ λόγος ἐνώπιον παντὸς τοῦ πλήθους  
And pleased the saying the whole multitude  
G2532 G700 G3588 G1799 G3956 G3588 G4128

καὶ ἐξελέξαντο Στέφανον ἄνδρα πλήρη πίστεως καὶ  
And they chose Stephen a man full of faith And  
G2532 G1586 G4736 G435 G4134 G4102 G2532

πνεύματος ἁγίου καὶ Φίλιππον καὶ Πρόχορον καὶ  
Ghost of the Holy And Philip And Prochorus And  
G4151 G40 G2532 G5376 G2532 G4402 G2532

Νικάνορα καὶ Τίμωνα καὶ Παρμενᾶν καὶ Νικόλαον  
Nicanor And Timon And Parmenas And Nicolas  
G3527 G2532 G5096 G2532 G3937 G2532 G3532

προσήλυτον Ἀντιοχέα  
a proselyte of Antioch  
G4339 G491

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 11:24** (Faith): For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.

**Acts 21:8** (Parallel theme): And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.

**Acts 6:8** (Faith): And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

**Acts 6:3** (Holy): 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.

**Acts 13:1** (Parallel theme): Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

**Acts 6:10** (Spirit): And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.

**Acts 11:19** (Parallel theme): Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.

**Proverbs 15:23** (Parallel theme): A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!