

Acts 1-10: God's Blueprint for Ministry in the Church
"Ministry Released - Church Growth - Opposition Faced!"
Acts 6:1-15 (page 760)

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I. Ministry r e l e a s e d (vs. 1-6)

1. There was a n e e d (v 1)
2. The ministry was i m p o r t a n t but no longer n e e d e d Apostolic o v e r s i g h t. (v 2; Acts 4:34-35)
3. There are some basic s p i r i t u a l q u a l i f i c a t i o n s for those chosen to serve. (v 3; Num 27:18-20; Deut 34:9)
4. r e l e a s i n g ministry allowed the Apostles to f o c u s on prayer and ministry of the Word. (v 4)
5. The men c h o s e n had Godly c h a r a c t e r. (v 5)
6. Those chosen were released into ministry through... (v 6)
 - a. p r a y e r
 - b. l a y i n g on of hands (Num 8:10; 27:18; Deut. 34:9; Acts 8:17; 9:17; 13:3; 19:6; 1 Tim. 4:14)

II. The Result Was c h u r c h g r o w t h (v 7)

1. The Word of God s p r e a d s.
2. The number of d i s c i p l e s in Jerusalem i n c r e a s e d rapidly.
3. Large number of p r i e t s became o b e d i e n t to the faith.

III. Opposition f a c e d (vs 8-15)

1. Stephen is i d e n t i f i e d as a man... (v 8; see also v 5)
...full of God's g r a c e and p o w e r.
...doing great w o n d e r s and m i r a c u l o u s signs.
2. o p p o s i t i o n arose. (vs 9-14; Luke 21:14-15; 12:11-12)
3. All eyes are now on s t e p h e n!
(v 15; Exo 34:29; Acts 4:13; Psalm 19:7-8; 24:4-5)

Application Questions:

1. What might God be releasing you to do for Him?
2. What might you be lacking in order to carry out the ministry He's called you to do?
3. How might your obedience/disobedience have a direct affect on the effectiveness of the church?
4. In the face of opposition, how might others identified you? How might God identify you? Is there evidence to convict you of being a Christ follower? Why or why not?
5. When people look at you, do they see that you have been with Jesus?!

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