

## Church On The Move

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### Acts 6

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#### Using This Study

##### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

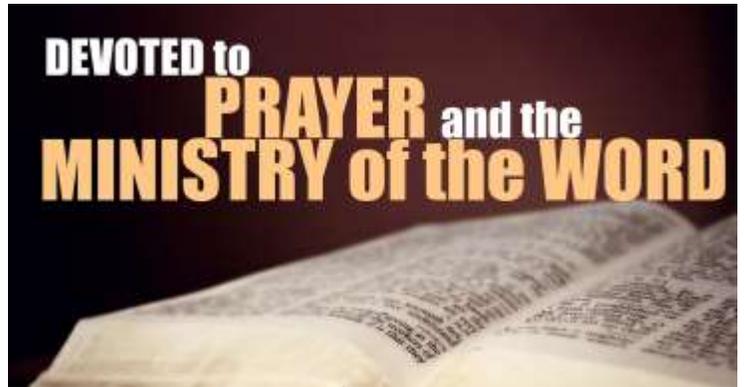
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

##### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

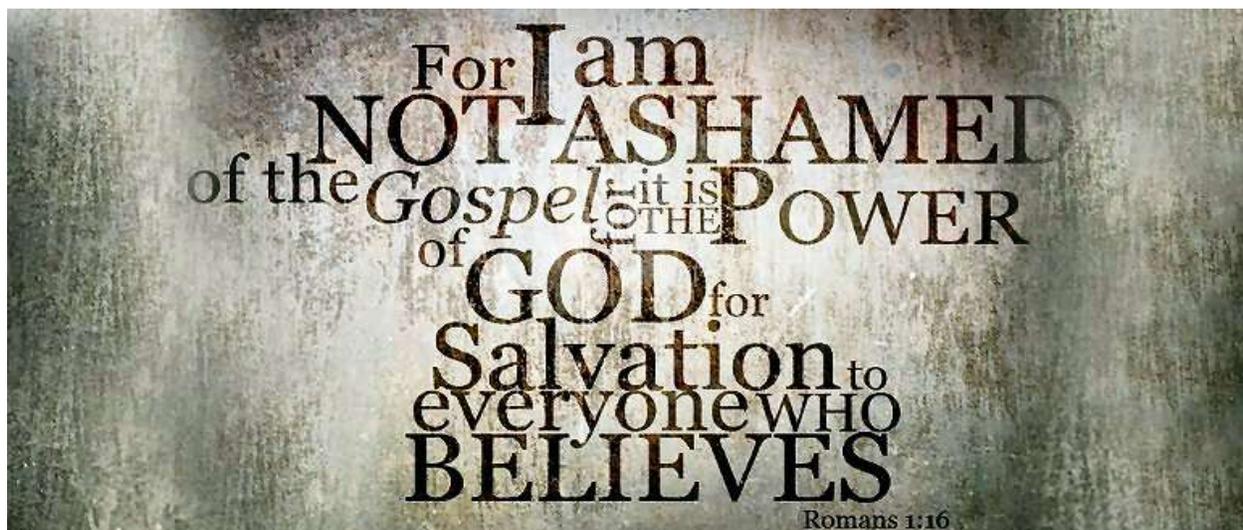
What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

##### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



In Acts chapter 6, we see the Apostles overwhelmed with all that they have to do. They get to the point that they are not taking good enough care of some of the widows in the church. When this is brought to their attention, they pull some other men into service. God did not intend for the church to be run by the few, but to have everyone involved in the body. We all have gifts that will enable the church body to be an effective ministry. The Apostles needed help in order to be effective ministers of the Word. They were called to preach and teach and share the gospel even in the face of persecution.



## **EXAMINE His Word (Observation)**

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

### **Read Acts 6 (NET)**

Now in those days, when the disciples were growing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Greek-speaking Jews against the native Hebraic Jews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. <sup>2</sup> So the twelve called the whole group of the disciples together and said, “It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup> But carefully select from among you, brothers, seven men who are well-attested, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this necessary task. <sup>4</sup> But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” <sup>5</sup> The proposal pleased the entire group, so they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a Gentile convert to Judaism from Antioch. <sup>6</sup> They stood these men before the apostles, who prayed and placed their hands on them. <sup>7</sup> The word of God continued to spread, the number of disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly, and a large group of priests became obedient to the faith.

<sup>8</sup> Now Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. <sup>9</sup> But some men from the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), both Cyrenians and Alexandrians, as well as some from Cilicia and the province of Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. <sup>10</sup> Yet they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. <sup>11</sup> Then they secretly instigated some men to say, “We have heard this man speaking blasphemous words against Moses and God.” <sup>12</sup> They incited the people, the elders, and the experts in the law; then they approached Stephen, seized him, and brought him before the council. <sup>13</sup> They brought forward false witnesses who said, “This man does not stop saying things against this holy place and the law. <sup>14</sup> For we have heard him saying that Jesus the Nazarene will destroy this place and change the customs that Moses handed down to us.” <sup>15</sup> All who were sitting in the council looked intently at Stephen and saw his face was like the face of an angel.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?

5. What is emphasized?
  
6. Is there anything in this passage that is related to other areas of scripture?
  
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

### **🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)**

What does God MEAN?

8. Do you think the Apostles intentionally gave more bread to the Jewish widows?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Having people help distribute food allowed the apostles and church leaders to focus on other things. According to verse 4, what did they devote themselves to?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. What is the “ministry of the Word” in verse 4?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. Stephen is full of grace and speaks with great wisdom. Why are people still so opposed?

### ③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)**

**Why does this MATTER to me?**

12. Are there ministries in our church that get overlooked like we see in this passage?

13. What does it look like for us to be committed to the “ministry of the word?”

14. How can we prepare ourselves to be a witness as strong as Stephen?

### **Summarize your thoughts on the passage:**

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

### **SERMON NOTES**