

The Church

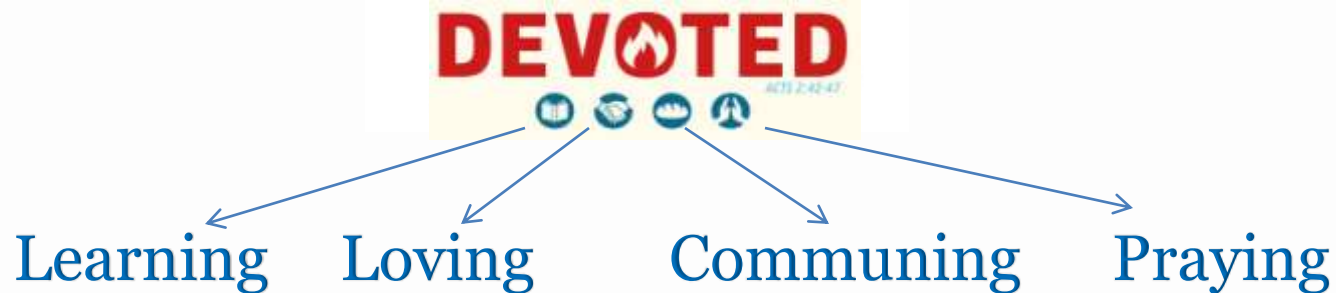
- Handling Problems Wisely -



Acts 6:1-7

Key #1 Devoted to God..

- Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.



#2 Being United..

- Acts 4:32 Now the multitude of those who believed were **of one heart and one soul**; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.



One Heart, One Soul.

Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul . . . Acts 4:32a

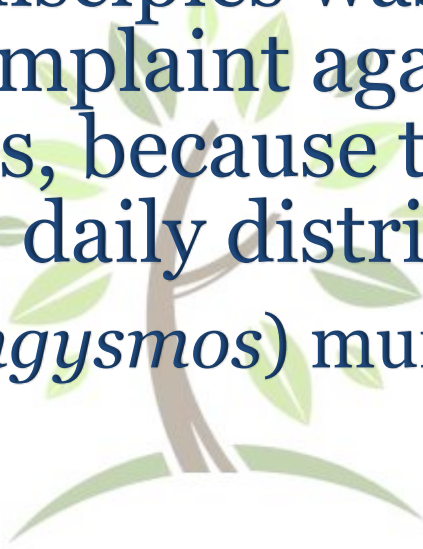
#3 Proclaiming Jesus

- Acts 4:18-20 they commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. 20 For **we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.**"



The Problem

- Acts 6:1-7 Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their **widows were neglected** in the daily distribution.
 - Complaint (*gongysmos*) murmuring



The Solution

- 2 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. 3 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; 4 but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

Wisdom of apostles..

- They did not ignore the problem (James 1:27)
- They listened and acted with wisdom
- Gathered “all” the people
- Seven men with qualifications
- The apostles would continue their work of prayer and the word



The Outcome..

- 5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, 6 whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

The Outcome..

- 7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.



What we learn..

A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped together in a prayerful gesture, resting on an open Bible. The Bible is lying flat on a wooden surface, and the text on its pages is visible. The lighting is warm and focused on the hands and the book.

- Dealing with issues wisely..
- Leaders focus on prayer and the word..
- Not overlooking anyone..
- Involving the group in the solution..

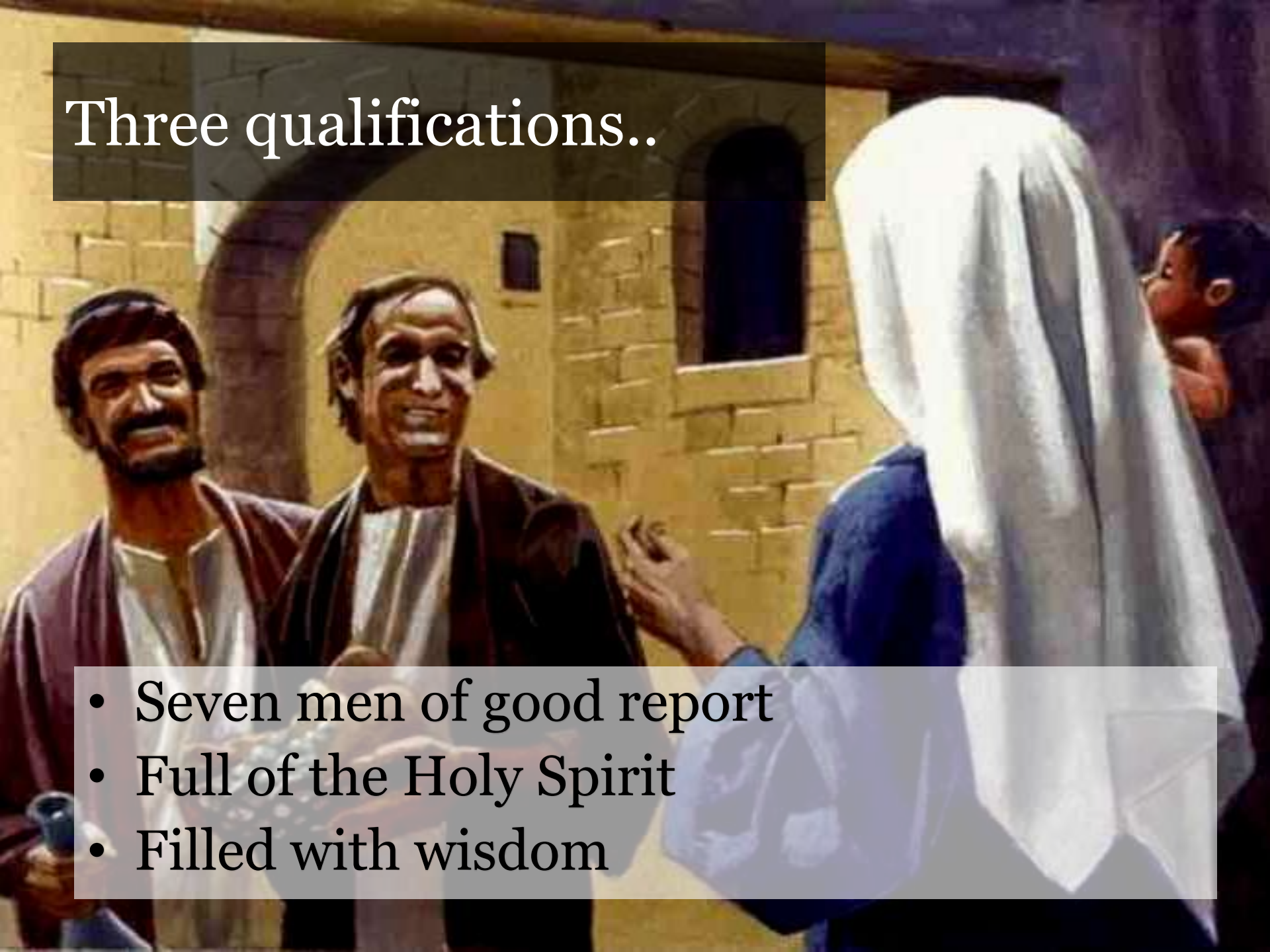
Leaders and prayer..

A close-up, profile view of a middle-aged man with short, dark hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. He is shown in a state of prayer, with his eyes closed and his hands clasped together near his chin. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be the interior of a church or a formal setting with white architectural elements.

- Godly leaders realize their role in prayer..

Three qualifications..

- Seven men of good report
- Full of the Holy Spirit
- Filled with wisdom



The Church

- Handling Problems Wisely -



Acts 6:1-7