

Growing Pains

The Book of Acts // Episode 10

Acts 6:1-7

Growth wasn't something to stop, but rather to steward.

Focus on health not growth.

Good stewardship is not maintaining, but fruitful growth.

If growth is stalled, you need to shift, changing your system or structure.

Growth brings problems & growing pains. Some problems are to be solved, most are tensions you keep managing.

The Growing Pains: Religious leaders were jealous & critical, people were being overlooked, and leaders were not operating in their gifting.

Acts 5:38–39 (NLT) - “So my advice is, leave these men alone. Let them go. If they are planning and doing these things merely on their own, it will soon be overthrown. But if it is from God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You may even find yourselves fighting against God!”

Acts 6:1 (NLT) - But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food.

The Solution: Focus aligned with giftings & Find faithful partners

Acts 6:2–4 NLT

And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility. Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word."

God is looking for people with His character He can trust with responsibilities.

What are the prerequisites of being a partner with God's ministry?

1. Character is reliable
2. Charismatics are growing
3. Competent in a skill

1 Timothy 3:8–13 (CSB)

Deacons, likewise, should be worthy of **respect**, not hypocritical, not drinking a lot of wine, not greedy for money, **holding the mystery of the faith** with a clear conscience. They must also be tested first; if they prove blameless, then they can serve as deacons. Wives, likewise, should be worthy of respect, not slanderers, self-controlled, **faithful in everything**. Deacons are to be husbands of one wife, managing their children and their own households competently. **For those who have served well as deacons acquire a good standing for themselves and great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.**

You are needed as a minister in God's house and to His creation. No one starts out fully qualified - Jesus does that work in us!

PRACTICING THE WAY

As disciples of Jesus, we know our allegiance to Him as King is expressed in our daily practice. We are not pursuing perfection but want to practice our faith each day. These practices will point you toward spiritual formation as an apprentice (disciple) to Jesus.

Start the Fresh Start Pathway with a friend.

Pray through “The Lord’s Prayer” five times this week.

Talk it Over (with friends, a spouse, or connect group)

- Read Acts 6:1-7. What do you notice within this passage?
- As you examine your spiritual life, what are some specific ways you’ve grown in the last 6 -12 months?
- Can you recall a time when you stalled in your spiritual growth? What did you do to resume your growth?
- Read Matthew 25:14-28. What does good stewardship look like, according to this passage?
- There are three main categories of qualifications we need to pursue as family members in God’s household: Character, Charismatics, & Competence. Which of those needs to grow the most?
- What is the difference between doing a task and carrying responsibility?