

I. Introduction

Following the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the Jerusalem church experienced remarkable growth and revival. Yet as the church continued to expand, new internal challenges and conflicts inevitably emerged. The complaint that the Hellenistic widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food posed a serious crisis that had the potential to divide the entire community. However, God used this crisis to strengthen and mature His church. The apostles' response demonstrates how the church can, by God's wisdom, transform a time of crisis into an opportunity for greater growth and unity.

II. Main Body

1. The Apostles' Decision Established a New Tradition: The Primacy of the Word and Prayer

Rather than addressing the distribution problem themselves, the apostles entrusted the responsibility to seven men who were full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, while they devoted themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word. Through this decision, the Jerusalem church established a lasting spiritual tradition: the Word of God and prayer must remain at the center of every ministry. The church's traditions are often forged in the midst of crisis, and those traditions ultimately shape the identity of the community.

2. The Apostles' Decision Established a New Leadership That Brought Reconciliation and Restoration

The apostles did not attempt to resolve every problem on their own. Instead, they entrusted the ministry to seven men who had earned the confidence of the congregation. Significantly, all seven were Hellenistic believers, reflecting the willingness of the Hebrew believers to take the initiative in seeking reconciliation. As a result, the wounds within the community were healed, and conflict gave way to reconciliation. This was possible because the apostles' commitment to the ministry of the Word and prayer transformed the hearts of God's people and raised up a new generation of leaders. Their decision strengthened the Jerusalem church, making it even healthier and more united than before.

III. Conclusion

There may be times when God's church faces difficulties and challenges. Yet God uses such crises to mature His people and to unite them through His Word and prayer. When our focus remains on God rather than on our problems, the church is strengthened into a healthier and more faithful community. As a result, the Word of God continues to spread with greater power, and the church experiences renewed revival through the work of the Holy Spirit.

**Bible
Memorization**

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word. (Acts 6:3-4)

**Bible
Reading**

Bible Reading Passage

8/3(Mon)	8/4(Tue)	8/5(Wed)	8/6(Thur)	8/7(Fri)	8/8(Sat)	8/9(Sun)
Isaiah 10-13	Isaiah 14-18	Isaiah 19-22	Isaiah 23-26	Isaiah 27-30	Isaiah 31-34	Isaiah 35-37

QT

Quiet Time Passage

8/3(Mon)	8/4(Tue)	8/5(Wed)	8/6(Thur)	8/7(Fri)	8/8(Sat)	8/9(Sun)
Ezekiel 34:25-31	Ezekiel 35:1-15	Ezekiel 36:1-15	Ezekiel 36:16-31	Ezekiel 36:32-38	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Ezekiel 37:15-28

**Sharing
Questions**

1. Based on today's sermon, please share one new insight you gained or one truth through which God especially spoke to your heart.
2. The conflict in the Jerusalem church began with a sense of unfairness and hurt feelings. Have you recently experienced emotional pain because of disappointment, misunderstanding, or feelings of being overlooked in your church, family, workplace, or school? How did you respond in that situation?
3. Rather than becoming consumed by the problem, the apostles chose to devote themselves more fully to prayer and the ministry of the Word. When difficulties arise, do you tend to focus first on solving the problem yourself, or do you first seek God through prayer and allow His Word to guide and strengthen your heart? Through today's sermon, what challenge or encouragement is God giving you personally?
4. The power of God's Word transformed conflict into reconciliation and brought unity to the community. During the coming week, who is one person to whom you can take the initiative to extend reconciliation, offer encouragement, or serve in Christ's love? What kind of "One Flock Church" does God desire to build through you?