

Acts 6:1-7 New Century Version (NCV)

The number of followers was growing. But during this same time, the Greek-speaking followers had an argument with the other followers. The Greek-speaking widows were not getting their share of the food that was given out every day. The twelve apostles called the whole group of followers together and said, "It is not right for us to stop our work of teaching God's word in order to serve tables. So, brothers and sisters, choose seven of your own men who are good, full of the Spirit and full of wisdom. We will put them in charge of this work. Then we can continue to pray and to teach the word of God."

The whole group liked the idea, so they chose these seven men: Stephen (a man with great faith and full of the Holy Spirit), Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas (a man from Antioch who had become a follower of the Jewish religion). Then they put these men before the apostles, **who prayed and laid their hands on them.**

The word of God was continuing to spread. The group of followers in Jerusalem increased, and a great number of the Jewish priests believed and obeyed.

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1 Corinthian 12

Something from the Spirit can be seen in each person. **The Spirit gives this to each one to help others.** The Spirit gives one person the ability to speak with **wisdom**. And the same Spirit gives another person the ability to speak with **knowledge**. The same Spirit gives **faith** to one person and to another he gives gifts of **healing**. Spirit gives to one person the power to do **miracles**, to another the ability to **prophecy**, and to another the **ability to judge what is from the Spirit and what is not**. The Spirit gives one person the ability to **speak in different kinds of languages**, and **to another the ability to interpret those languages**. One Spirit, the same Spirit, does all these things. **The Spirit decides what to give each one**

1 Corinthian 12

All of you together are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of that body. In the church God has given a place **first to apostles, second to prophets, and third to teachers**. Then God has given a place to **those who do miracles, those who have gifts of healing, those who can help others, those who are able to lead, and those who can speak in different kinds of languages.**

Elders, be like a Servant...

Luke 22:24-27 Easy-to-Read Version (ERV)

Later, the apostles began to argue about which one of them was the most important. But Jesus said to them, **“The kings of the world rule over their people, and those who have authority over others want to be called ‘the great providers for the people.’ But you must not be like that. The one with the most authority among you should act as if he is the least important. The one who leads should be like one who serves. Who is more important: the one serving or the one sitting at the table being served? Everyone thinks it’s the one being served, right? But I have been with you as the one who serves.”**

Simon Peter’s Anger Reprimanded

Luke 22:49-51 New Century Version (NCV)

When those who were standing around him saw what was happening, they said, “Lord, should we strike them with our swords?” And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

Jesus said, **“Stop! No more of this.”** Then he touched the servant’s ear and healed him.

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Galatians 6:1-10 New Century Version (NCV)

Help Each Other

Brothers and sisters, if someone in your group does something wrong, you who are spiritual should go to that person and gently help make him right again. But be careful, because you might be tempted to sin, too. By helping each other with your troubles, you truly obey the law of Christ. If anyone thinks he is important when he really is not, he is only fooling himself. Each person should judge his own actions and not compare himself with others. Then he can be proud for what he himself has done. Each person must be responsible for himself. Anyone who is learning the teaching of God should share all the good things he has with his teacher.

Do not be fooled: You cannot cheat God. People harvest only what they plant. If they plant to satisfy their sinful selves, their sinful selves will bring them ruin. **But if they plant to please the Spirit, they will receive eternal life from the Spirit. We must not become tired of doing good. We will receive our harvest of eternal life at the right time if we do not give up.**

When we have the opportunity to help anyone, we should do it. But we should give special attention to those who are in the family of believers.

Jesus taught to put God's kingdom first...

Matthew 6: 31-34 New Century Version (NCV)

Don't worry and say, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' The people who don't know God keep trying to get these things, and your Father in heaven knows you need them. **Seek first God's kingdom and what God wants. Then all your other needs will be met as well.** So don't worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will have its own worries. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

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Jesus taught the Disciples how to pray...

Matthew 6: 31-34 New Century Version (NCV)

So when you pray, you should pray like this:

**'Our Father in heaven,
may your name always be kept holy.
May your kingdom come
and what you want be done,
here on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us the food we need for each day.

... And the prayer continues... with a caution...

**Forgive us for our sins,
just as we have forgiven those who sinned against us.
And do not cause us to be tempted,
but save us from the Evil One.'**

[The kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours forever. Amen.]

Yes, if you forgive others for their sins, your Father in heaven will also forgive you for your sins. But if you don't forgive others, your Father in heaven will not forgive your sins.

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There may be challenges, but Elders must hold fast to the truth in Jesus Christ!

It is so important for Elders to study, visit and search the scriptures for guidelines.

Elders should find time together to pray, study, learn and reflect. Even Paul and Barnabas stood strong when some turned against them.