



CONNECT

Have you or someone you loved ever felt overlooked? How did that make you feel and how did you respond?

Have you ever been asked to do something you felt would take away from what you should be doing? How did that make you feel and how did you respond?

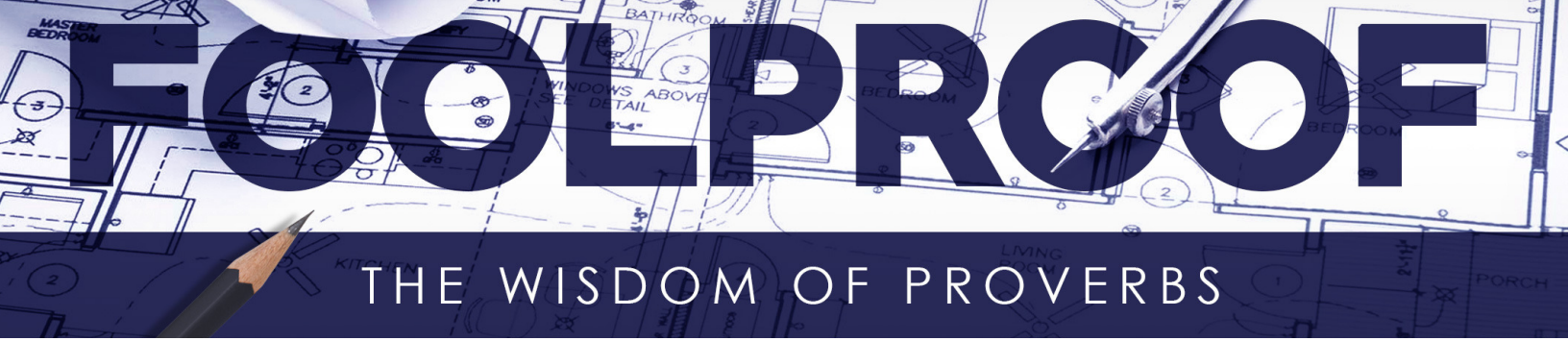
WORD

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. 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." And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. - Acts 6:1-7

OBSERVATIONS

It is only through knowing what God has purposed us to do that we are able to work as one body to make a difference. Seeing all of the needs around us, we can easily be distracted from doing what God has called us to focus on as individuals and it is only through trusting God and each other that we are able to work as a team in meeting the needs around us.

**WE EXIST TO HELP PEOPLE KNOW GOD, GROW TOGETHER,
DISCOVER PURPOSE, MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**



OBSERVATIONS CONTINUED...

While at times we may feel over qualified in our skill set for a task, we may be highly under qualified in our character. The men picked were to be those who were among them of “good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom.” Stephen was known for doing miracles and wonders (Acts 6:8) and we see his character even more when we read of him being the first martyr of the faith (Acts 7). And, Philip was a powerful evangelist who was well versed in Scripture and sensitive and obedient to the Spirit of God (Acts 8:4-40). These men did not limit themselves to a position because they were provoked by the call of Christ for the Church. To make disciples and make a difference.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Do you know what you are made for? Both as a heir with Christ and as an individual son or daughter of God? Are you spending time with Him regularly that you would know Who He is and who He has made you to be?

Are you pouring yourself into what God has called you to do or being distracted by other good things that may not be the ultimate thing God has purposed for you? Are there areas you are serving where you need to learn to delegate and trust both God and the Body of Christ to fulfill the need?

Are there areas of character development that need to take place in your life that have kept you in a state of being under-qualified? Bad Reputation, sin pattern, lacking the fullness of the Spirit (both life and power), lacking wisdom?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Share with each other three things you feel the Lord is calling you to focus on and what your next practical step to fulfill them are. Be open to suggestions from your group in how you could start walking in the purpose God has called you to.

PRAYER

Prayer as a group for unity in the Church and that we as a church would have the qualifications needed to serve our communities: Good reputation, filled with the Spirit and full of Wisdom.