

***Deacons in Today's Church;
Assistants in Church Growth***

“...Look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business” (Acts 6:3).

Deacons can be instrumental and helpful in relieving the pastor of many responsibilities in running a church. They can also assist with the establishment and oversight of preaching points and churches.

God has a plan for the Deacons in today's Church. As with any job you need a Job Description. The first Deacons had to demonstrate that they lived continuously under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and as a Christian.

According to *Willmington's Guide to the Bible* the Job Description for Deacons is as follows:

- They must be men.
- They must be saved.
- They must be reputable.
- They must be spiritual.
- They must possess wisdom.

Deacons must have the spirit and anointing along with the pastors. Anyone who has responsibility in the House of God must move in the Spirit.

In Acts 6, deacons existed because of church growth. The Church had grown so rapidly that there was a shortage of people available to perform the necessary leadership tasks. Instead of pastors praying and preaching they were performing other functions. The church had grown to the point that there were many needs; both spiritual and material. The Deacons were

called upon to share the work load. They assisted the pastor. These men were chosen by the people and were to be of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom (Acts 6:3).

The Deacons were to love the truth and God. They were people in the church who could be trusted. They knew their place and did not try to overstep it or run the spiritual affairs of the church. They existed to help, be a blessing, be trustworthy, and to do good things for the Church. Deacons must love souls more than position and seek God for souls to come into the Kingdom. If Deacons will seek God then something will happen. They won't be ordinary saints anymore.

Deacons need to be used in the Spirit like Stephen and Philip. You can become a Book of Acts man! Stephen was a Deacon; full of faith and the Holy Ghost. He had faith in and with God. He assisted in increasing the Church. When you do things God's way, His blessings will be upon the Church.

Stephen, in Acts 6:8 was full of faith and power. He did great wonders and miracles. In Acts 6:10 they were not able to resist the wisdom and Spirit by which he spoke to them.

Study Questions

1. Why are Deacons necessary in the Church today? _____

2. What is the Job Description for a Deacon? _____

3. Who are two examples of Spiritual Deacons in Acts? _____