

Acts of the Holy Spirit  
“God of the Impossible” – Series

**~ LET'S PRAY ~**

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: **“The Pains of Progress.”**

**~ INTRO ~**

TODAY...

- We get a glimpse into the internal problems of the early church.
  - AND... we have an opportunity to learn...
    - How to handle the pains of growth.

IN (Acts)...

- We've seen the full spectrum of **change** being played out:
  - (Acts 2:41) people were being “added to the church.”
  - (Acts 5:1-11) people were being subtracted from the church.
  - (Acts 6:1) disciples [were] multiplying in the church.

SO...

- We can recognize that as God grows a fellowship over time...
  - There are going to be different seasons...
    - Where some are **added** / some are **subtracted** / ...
      - AND other times people are **multiplied!**

ALL OF THESE EXPERIENCES...

- Are part of a healthy church... (John 15:1-2) NLT

**HERE'S WHAT OUR TEXT SAYS:**

- (Acts 6:1-7) NLT

**IDEA #1 – GOD'S ON THE MOVE:**

NOW...

- As the church grew... problems surfaced.
  - AND there were adjustments they needed to make.

IN (Acts 6)...

- The church was experiencing **The Pains of Progress:**

Acts of the Holy Spirit  
“*God of the Impossible*” – Series

- 1) **Disciples were being multiplied** – (v.1)
- 2) **Problems surfaced** – (v.1)
- 3) **People complained** – (v.1)

FOLKS...

- Recognize the difference between criticism that cripples a church...
  - And a valid complaint, which can help the church grow.

IT’S ALL ABOUT THE HEART...

- That delivers the message.

**POINT BEING...**

- There are real adjustments to be made as the church grows.

**IDEA #2 – DON’T LOSE THE MAIN THING:**

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT POINT...

- To consider in the modern church.
  - But it’s NOT a new challenge (v.2).

CHURCH...

- Contrary to popular opinion...
  - The lead pastor is not a C.E.O.!

GOD HAS NOT PLACED THE PASTOR...

- Into a body of believers to become a business manager.

ALTHOUGH...

- It may be true that some pastors have the gift of administration.

YET it should NOT be true...

- That the lead pastor is tasked with leading...
  - The business operations of a church.
    - (Because it divides the heart).
      - (2 Tim 2:4) NKJV

BIBLICALLY...

Acts of the Holy Spirit  
“*God of the Impossible*” – Series

- The pastor has a role to assume within the church.
  - And if his role is neglected... the body suffers!

(John 21:15-17) NKJV

- We see Jesus emphasizing the focus of ministry for the pastor.
  - *Feed / tend / feed.*

PAUL SAYS IT THIS WAY IN (2 Tim 4:2) NLT...

*“Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not...”*

READ (v.2) & (v.4)

**IDEA #3 – THE RIGHT BALANCE:**

IN THIS FINAL IDEA...

- We can find a simple road map for success:
  - a) Distribute the load (v.3).
  - b) Appoint new leaders (v.5).
  - c) Continue the mission (v.7) – (Eph. 4:16).

OK...

- Let’s observe one O.T. example.
  - (Ex. 18:17-23) NKJV

SOME COMMON SENSE...

- As we move forward as a church:

1) If a person must be managed, then you selected the wrong volunteer.

- a) No motivation.
- b) Can’t get with the flow.
- c) Causes problems.
- d) Unwilling to learn & assume responsibility.

THIS IS NOT AN EXAMPLE...

- Of a servant of Christ!

2) Here’s a small check before onboarding a team member.

Acts of the Holy Spirit  
“*God of the Impossible*” – Series

We do this in our “*Next Step*” classes...

- We have three requirements for service here:
  - a) Love Jesus
  - b) Love the Pastor & his family
  - c) Love the People of Westminster Calvary

In Calvary Church Culture...

- The fellowship is open to anyone...
  - But practically it’s NOT for everyone!

WE’RE MORE CONCERNED...

- With reaching the lost than pacifying critics that stifle growth.
  - (Amos 3:3) NLT

~ IN CLOSING ~

CHURCH...

- As we continue to learn thru (Acts) ...
  - I want you to grow in your sensitivity toward Jesus.
    - We’re discovering simple truths within the early church.

AND...

- We don’t want to miss out on honoring Jesus in our lives.
  - So let’s take communion today.

~ COMMUNION ~