

A Dedicated Partner in the Work

Text: Acts 6:1-7

I. A LEADER IS A COMMITTED CHRISTIAN

1) A Changed Mind: “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” (Acts 2:38).

2) A Clean Heart “...Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...” Baptism is the outward expression of an inward cleansing. That cleansing only comes through faith in the Savior who shed His blood for the remission of sins.

3) A Controlled Will: “...ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost”

This receiving of the Spirit is more than just a quickening to life: it means handing over the reins of one’s life to the indwelling of the Spirit. All this had happened to Philip. That is why he was a committed Christian and a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Illustration: There is no such thing as partial commitment. When the pilot of a giant airliner is speeding down the runway there is a certain point where he cannot decide to remain on the ground. When he crosses that line, he is committed to the air, or the plane crashes disastrously to the ground. That pilot cannot change his mind when the plane is two-thirds of the way down the runway. Unfortunately, our churches are filled with members who “have never left the ground.” They have been sitting there for years and years gunning their engines. They are always “prepping,” getting ready. They are going to get busy. They have been planning on it, meaning to, wanting to, trying to, going to, aiming to, hoping to. But they have never left the ground!

II. A LEADER IS A CONSISTENT CHRISTIAN

He was a man “of honest report” (Acts 6:3) “look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom,” The root of the word report is the same as that from which we derive the term “witness”. This is a rare characteristic in these days, but it is a New Testament standard for those who hold leadership responsibilities in the life of the church. So many people call themselves witnesses, but are not honest. Deep down in their hearts they know they are not. Philip was a godly, consistent Christian. Can that be said of you? The sin of hypocrisy and inconsistency, on the part of Christians, has been a stumbling block to the lost world.

1. People Want Consistent Leaders, not wishy-washy, hot and cold.
2. Someone that always takes a stand.

3. Consistent means reliable, steady, dependant, unfailing.

III. A LEADER IS A CONSECRATED CHRISTIAN

He was "...full of the Holy Ghost..." (Acts 6:3).

In Old Testament times, the word consecration was used on the occasion of the installation of a priest to holy service.

In New Testament teaching, consecration implies the filling of the life by the Holy Spirit.

So we read that Philip was a man "...full of the Holy Ghost..." (Acts 6:3).

Writing to pastors, members, husbands, wives, parents, children, servants and masters, the apostle Paul exhorted: "...be filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:18).

To be a consecrated Christian begins with the filling with the Holy Spirit and this demands three actions of the believer.

1. Pray for forgiveness and cleansing of sin.

2. Pray for a God to fill you with His Spirit.

3. Be Sincere.

IV. A LEADER IS A COMMON-SENSE CHRISTIAN.

He was "...full of wisdom..." (Acts 6:3).

James 1:5 "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."