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God's Word: Foundation & Fuel

Acts 6:1-7

Main Idea

God's Word is the foundation of and fuel for the Church.

Overview

- **God's Word is the foundation of the Church**
 - In Acts 6:1-7 we see that nothing, not even distraction, is going to stop God growing the church through the proclamation of his Word
 - Though there are issues in the church, the apostles focus on preaching God's Word and prayer
 - God's Word is the foundation of the church because it:
 - Reveal God
 - Exposes Sin
 - Points to Jesus
 - Births & Builds the Church
 - Preaching and prayer go hand-in-hand
 - Prayer is the furnace that stokes the fire of God's word into white-hot flames that it might warm the hearts of God's people.
 - Prayer vividly and tangibly demonstrates dependence upon and humility before God.
 - Preaching without prayer is prideful, and prayer without preaching is presumptuous.
- **God's Word is the fuel for the Church**
 - The apostles address the issue at hand by finding men "full of the Spirit" to serve the church
 - People are filled with the Spirit as they hear the Word (cf. Gal. 3:2; Eph. 5:18-19; Col. 3:26)
 - Apart from the word there would be no Spirit filled people. Apart from Spirit filled people there would be no one to serve the church. Apart from no one to serve the church the leaders would be distracted, and ultimately growth stunted.
 - This passage shows the apostles functioning like elders - they have general oversight and particular responsibility to ensure the Word is preached, and these seven men functioning like deacons - removing burdens enabling the apostles to effectively carry out their primary responsibility
 - Preaching must lead to practice
 - Service to others to the church flows from and then affirms and adorns the gospel message
 - Preaching God's word enables and compels us to love and serve those around us

Questions

Discussion Starter: Why is it tempting to use something other than God's word to try to grow the church?

Transition: Why did the Apostles focus on bold proclamation of God's Word?

1. What problems have the apostles/church faced so far? How's is the issue here different?
2. Is it surprising that the apostles remain focused on prayer and preaching with such a serious problem at hand?
3. What are the four ways that God's Word serves as the foundation?
4. Why is prayer so important to the preaching of God's Word? What do we say when we preach without prayer, or pray without preaching?
5. "What you create a hunger for is what you have to feed." How does this saying drive the way Restoration Church goes about various aspects of ministry?
6. Are the apostles excused from prayer and Word since it's the primary responsibility of the apostles? Discuss.
7. How is a person filled with the Spirit (cf. Gal. 3:2; Eph. 5:18-19; Col. 3:16)?
8. What does this tell us about the importance of service?
9. What similarities do you see between the way the church functioned here in Acts and the way Restoration Church functions?
10. What are the two errors we avoid if we focus on God's Word as both the foundation and fuel?

Accountability Question: Are you neglecting ministry of prayer and/or Word in your own life?