

# “OPERATION ICEBERG”

*(Acts 6:1-7)*

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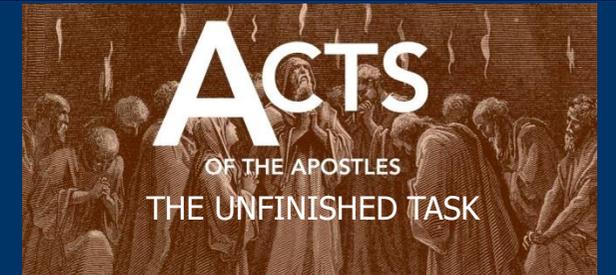
*Expository Sermon of Acts - Sermon 13*

*Speaker: Rev. Bobby Lam*

*Date: January 13, 2019*

*Place: Hope Community Baptist Church*

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# **INTRODUCTION:**



**Some churches are a lot like icebergs**

**Enormous**

**Float along with the current**

**Carry a lot of debris**

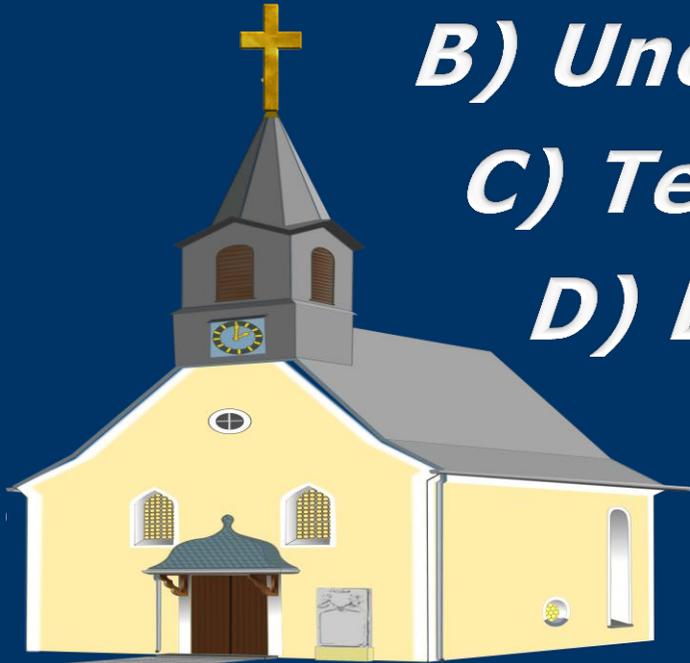
# I. PERILS OF RAPID GROWTH

*A) Uncertainty of Purpose*

*B) Unclear Priorities.*

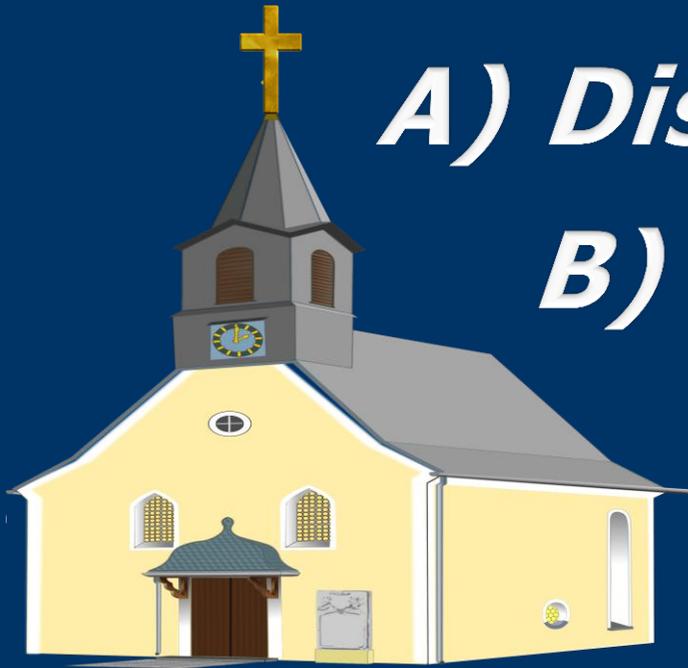
*C) Tendency toward Professionalism*

*D) Loss of Individual Significance*



## II. STRUCTURE OF EARLY CHURCH

Three groups of people that made up the church's organizational structure.



*A) Disciples / Congregation*

*B) The Twelve / Apostles*

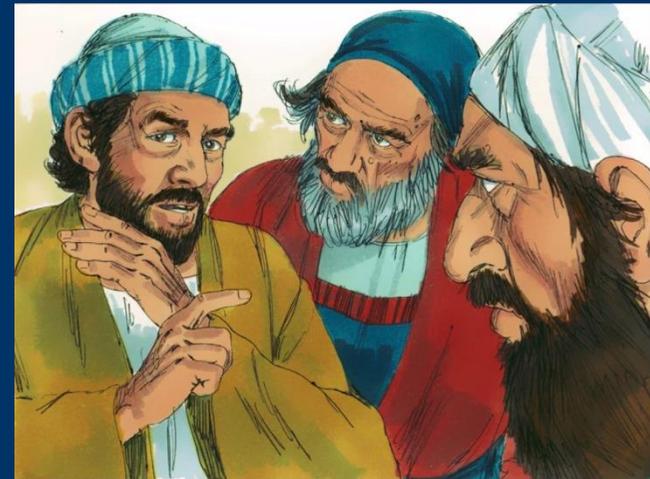
*C) The **Seven** / Deacons*

*Who are these **SEVEN** and what were their responsibilities?*

# III. EXAMPLE OF WISE LEADERSHIP

## A) *Explanation of Complaint*

**Acts 6:1** *In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.*

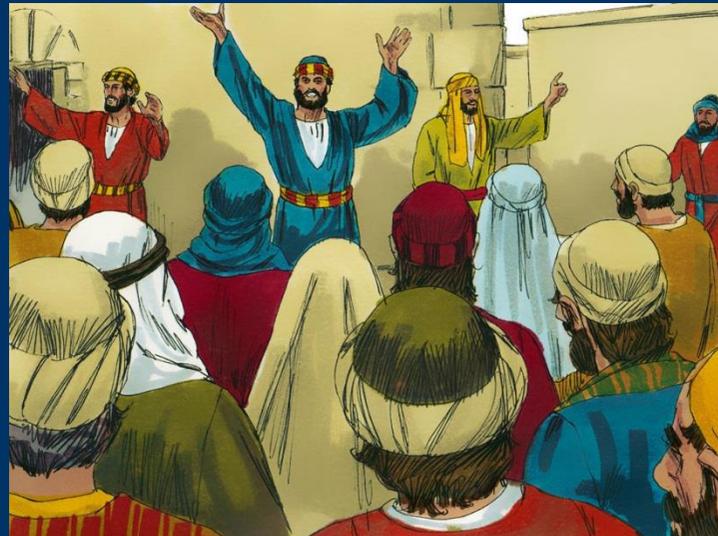


# III. EXAMPLE OF WISE LEADERSHIP

## *B) Declaration of Priorities*

*Acts 6:2* So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.

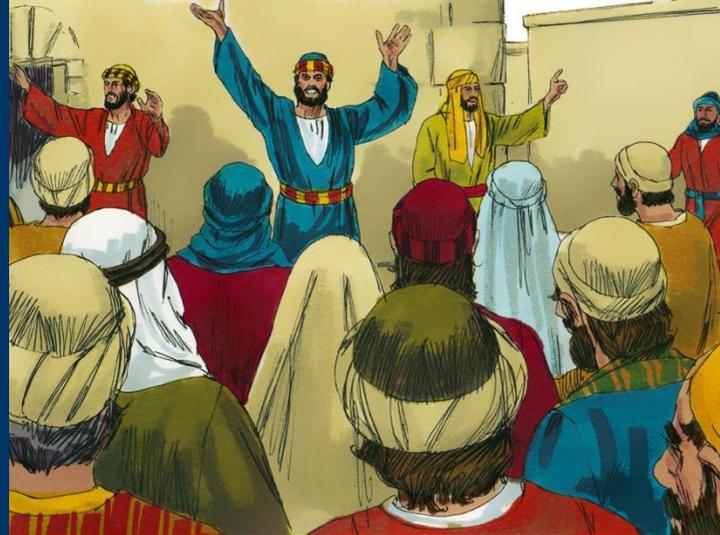
*Acts 6:4* ...and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."



# III. EXAMPLE OF WISE LEADERSHIP

## C) *Correction of Difficulty*

**Acts 6:3** *Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them.*



# III. EXAMPLE OF WISE LEADERSHIP

## D) *Selection of Helpers*

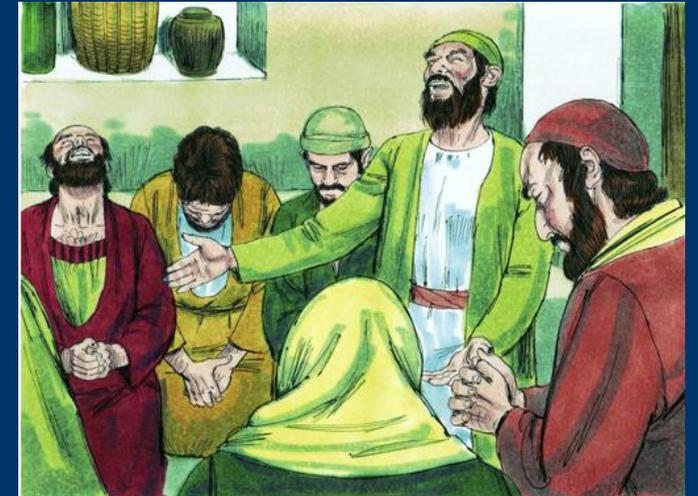
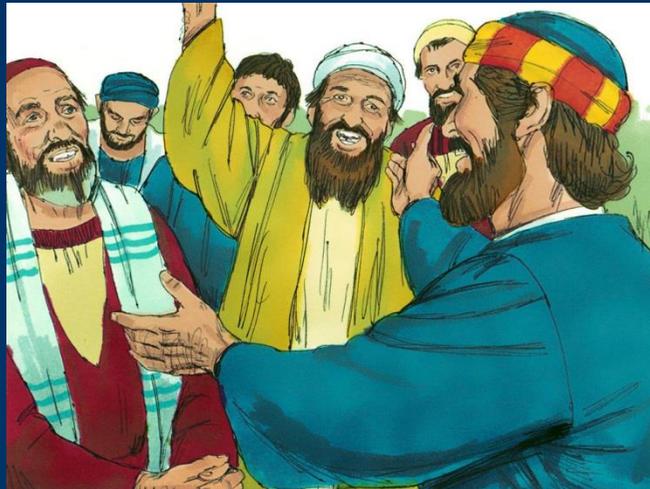
**Acts 6:5** *This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. <sup>6</sup> They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.*



# III. EXAMPLE OF WISE LEADERSHIP

## *E) Reaction of People*

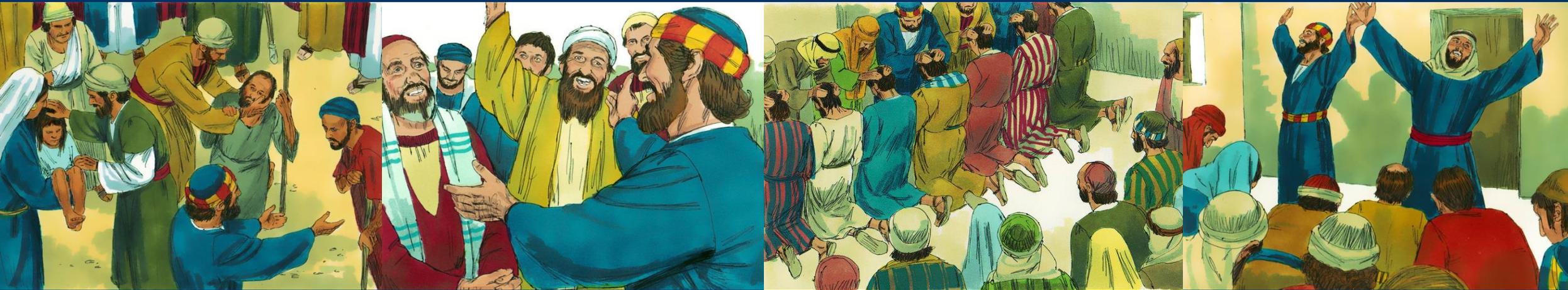
*Acts 6:7* So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.



## IV. PRINCIPLES OF TIMELESS VALUE

*We can learn valuable lessons that will help us when we confront problems in our own churches.*

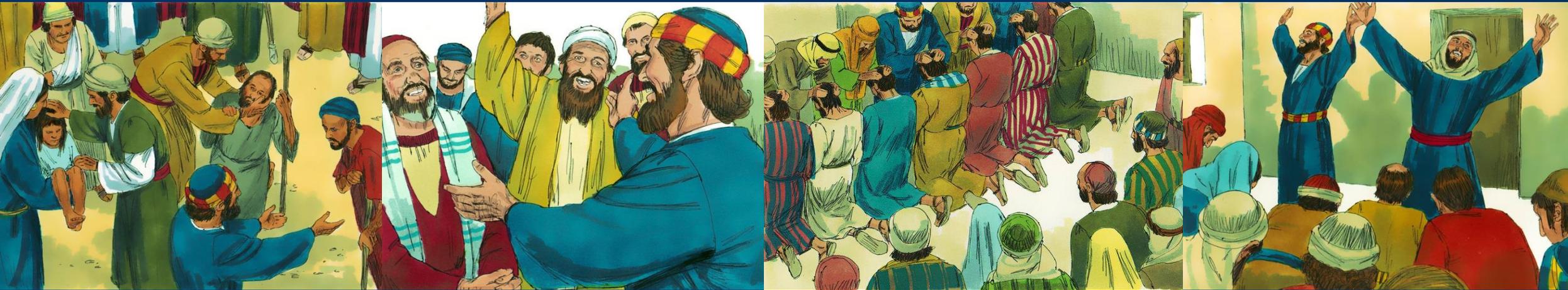
***A) Strong leadership doesn't guarantee an absence of problems.***



## IV. PRINCIPLES OF TIMELESS VALUE

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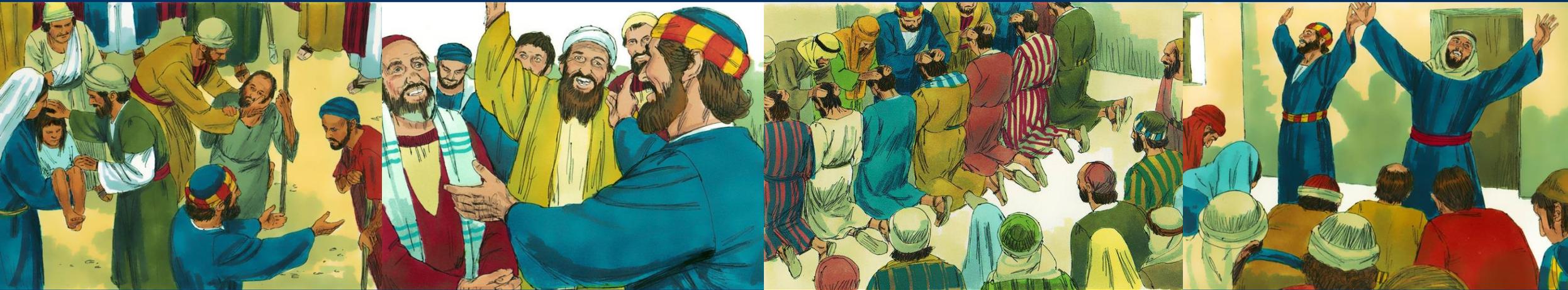
***B) Rapid growth doesn't excuse unmet needs.***



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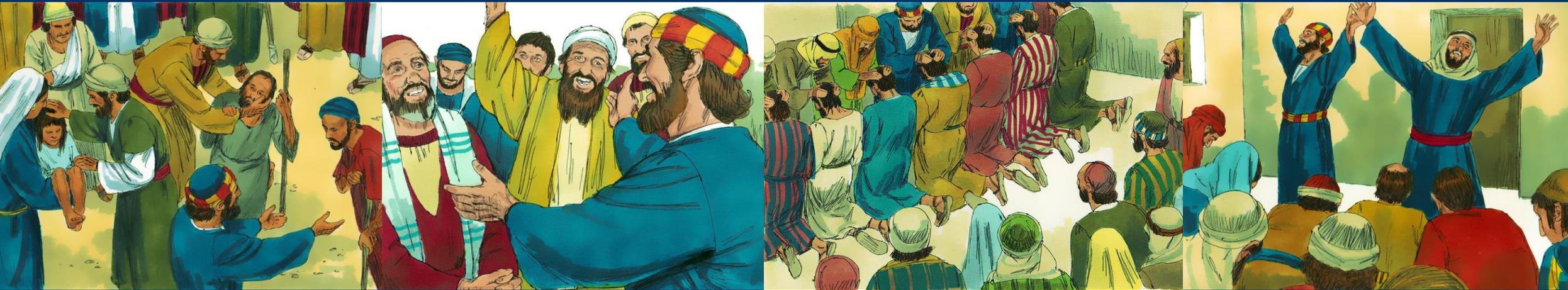
***C) Concerned involvement doesn't require losing priorities.***



## IV. PRINCIPLES OF TIMELESS VALUE

*We can learn valuable lessons that will help us when we confront problems in our own churches.*

***D) A large church doesn't mean an ineffective ministry.***



# CONCLUSION:



As your church grows, the following essentials will keep it on course and protect it from the perils of expansions

***A) Understanding the purpose of your church***

***B) The way we carry out the objectives of your church***

***1) Teaching that is biblical, not philosophical.***

***2) Activities that emphasize spiritual gifts, not religious programs.***

***3) An attitude that is open and balanced, not exclusive and extreme.***





## CG DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. How does some church similar to an iceberg? What are some characteristic of an iceberg?*
- 2. What are some dangers that confronts a growing church? Indentify some of these dangers in our church.*
- 3. What is the early form of government in the early church? What form of government does a church employ?*
- 4. As we trace the steps taken by the leaders of the early church, how closely does it reflect in our church?*
- 5. As we evaluate the above principles, how does each principles reflected in our church?*



*Scripture References:*

*Acts 6:1-7*