

The Increase of The Word "Seven Men of Wonder"

I would like to confine my article in this issue to the importance of the Seven. If the Seven was necessary in the Early Church, it is truly necessary in the Last Days' Church. First, let me quote the record of the Early Council of Apostles and Elders, which is found in Acts, chapter 6, beginning at verse 1 through 7, "And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations. Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, 'It is not reason that we should leave the work of God and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the Word.' And the saying pleased the whole multitude; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: Whom they set before the Apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. And the Word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith." Now let us analyze these Scriptures written by the beloved Luke of Acts of the Apostles. It is always necessary for some circumstances to arise to bring about provision for the Word of God to be fulfilled.

While Jesus was with the Early Church in the flesh, it was not necessary for them to have these seven men, for only Christ could be the seven. But in the absence of Christ in the flesh, it would make it necessary for the church to have these Seven. They did not look for twelve more or neither ten nor five. They felt that it was important to do it according to the Scriptures and seven is that perfection and completion. These circumstances arise to call for certain action in order that the church would make a divine move in bringing the church to the formation of the completion of the pattern.

Now the quality of this material had to be the following: "...Seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and WISDOM who we may APPOINT over this business." This was merely a business of the church to go along with the ministry of the Seven. Of course, it was to relieve the twelve from this responsibility that they may devote their full time, "...continuing to prayer and to the ministry of the Word (or searching and revealing the Word)." We have two mighty records of the two of these seven of which they were not confined to any particular church as a board of DEACONS for a deacon's office is one of the degrees given for the higher ranking of the ministry. If these seven were deacons, we find Philip, the Evangelist, having the gift of evangelism and perhaps holding a degree of a deacon. These men having to be filled with the Holy Ghost, full of wisdom and men of mighty faith, this is according to

the seventh verse that we have quoted. At the beginning of this appointment, we find in this eighth verse that the seven did great wonders and miracles among the people. This, of which, the church has never had in the last days. Only when A. J. Tomlinson attempted to set-up the pattern they were called Seven Judges. This was not exactly the Bible line. Even though A. J. Tomlinson chose the twelve elders and 70 elders to go with this, he failed to accept the type of material to set-up the pattern which should have been apostles, prophets, and elders. Even though he was working hard on its perfection, the Constitution, making the General Assembly the highest tribunal of authority, disrupted his whole program of reforming. For some reason, he never did any more resorting to the Bible organization of forming the true revelations of the church.

The building of Fields of The Wood in writing the vision brought us back to the knowledge of the pattern which is the revelation of the Word of God. The Church of God of Prophecy refused apostles, prophets, pastors, and teachers. They failed to see the importance of putting forth another effort to reform the Holy Pattern which was given by our Lord while on earth.

This Scripture also reveals that these men set before the apostles and was ordained by the laying on of hands. These men began to go everywhere and preach Christ. The thing that I would like to call your attention to in this final set-up in the seventh verse--the Word of God increased and in the increase of the Word, and I quote, "And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith." So anyone should be able to see in this Scripture the importance of the Seven in the church, which are the divine principles of God, the seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits which makes up the perfecting of the church. So this is the type of people who turned the world upside down and brought a shaking to every religion in the world, and they were compelled to disband and bring a reforming of religion. A. J. Tomlinson, before his death, prophesied of these seven men being on the eve of the return of the Lord. Truly, no man can dispute the fact that we are on the even of our coming Savior to catch away a perfected church washed in the Word.