

*Good things...*

- **Good** things can have effects: **good** night's sleep
- **Bad** things can have **bad** effects: poison
- How might a **good** thing have a **bad** effect?

**Zion National Park, Utah**





## Zion National Park, Utah

- Take the shuttle for 40 minutes
- Then walk up a trail for 30 minutes
- To “The Narrows”
  - A place where the only way through is to walk in the cold river up a narrow valley with cliffs on either side
  - An ‘out of the way’ place...





## Zion National Park, Utah

- Great challenges with **popularity**:
  - How to help many people **enjoy** the natural beauty
  - How to **protect** the natural beauty

### *Good things with bad effects...*

- How might a good thing have a bad effect **on a church?**
  - Growth and diversity
    - Both are so good!
    - Yet they can bring difficulties
    - What are we to do?
  - Pray for God's Word to be powerful today

Chinese: page 1773

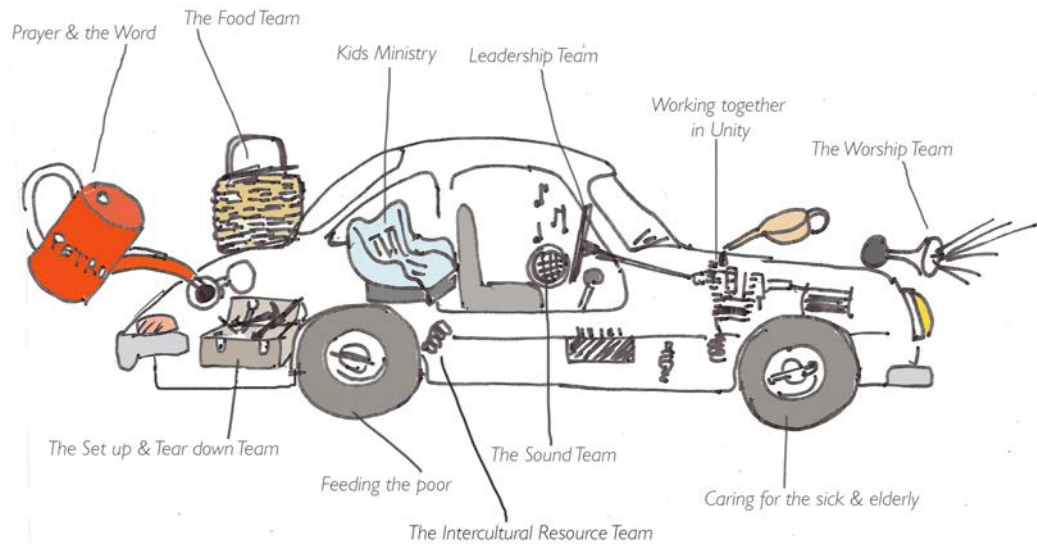
Spanish: page 1392

Brown: page 1096

Green: page 747

## Body & Soul

Acts 6:1-7



### *Good things in the early church*

All the believers were **one in heart and mind**. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to **testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus**. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were **no needy persons among them**. *Acts 4:32-34*

Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, **they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news** that Jesus is the Messiah. *Acts 5:42*

**Yet growth & diversity almost broke it. The backstory...**



*Acts 6:1-7*

## 1: The problem

2-4:

5-6:

7:

Chinese: page 1773

Spanish: page 1392

Brown: page 1096

Green: page 747

*Gospel ministry is head, heart, hands*

- **Head:** so we teach and study
- **Heart:** so we practice fellowship, prayer, and compassion
- **Hands:**
  - “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress...” *James 1:27*
  - “If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” *1 John 3:17-18*
  - “Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.” *Psalms 82:3-4*

*Acts 6:1-7*

1: The problem

- 2-4: • People were willing to give and serve (like Barnabas)
- 5-6: • Yet diversity made it complicated to do it well
- 7: • Hebrew/Aramaic-speaking Jews had privilege  
 • Probably looked down on Greek-speaking Jews  
 • Displaced widows were more vulnerable  
 • Greek-speaking Jews rightly spoke up  
 • May have been seen as “anti-apostle”
- Threatened important values
    - Unity
    - Meeting the needs of all of those who were poor
    - Never stop teaching the Word (and praying)

*Acts 6:1-7*

1: The problem: diversity & growth can complicate

2-4: Proposed solution

- 5-6: • Minority group pick people for the task
- 7: • While apostles focus on the Word and prayer
- May have been primarily a financial task
  - Qualifications
    - Good reputation among the people to be served
    - Full of the Spirit: spiritually mature in walk with God
      - Non-Christians can have the needed skills
      - But all work in the church is holy work
    - Full of wisdom: relevant skill & character



*Acts 6:1-7*

1: The problem: diversity & growth can complicate

2-4: Proposed solution

5-6: • What they did **not** do:

- 7:
- Break into homogeneous (like) groups
  - Stop meeting physical needs
  - Let go of the Word and prayer
- What religious leaders tried to bring about

*Acts 6:1-7*

1: The problem: diversity & growth can complicate

2-4: Proposed solution: pick the trusted, spiritual, skilled

5-6: Solution implemented

- 7:
- People endorsed the apostles' plan
  - Apostles endorsed the people's nominations
  - Leadership is under God:
    - Laying on of hands: symbol of commissioning
    - Prayer

*Acts 6:1-7*

1: The problem: diversity & growth can complicate

2-4: Proposed solution: pick the trusted, spiritual, skilled

5-6: Solution implemented

7: God's Word "grew"

- Number of disciples
  - Transformation of people
- Diversity

*The Big Idea*

**Good church growth requires...**

**prioritizing the Word & prayer**

**while taking seriously...**

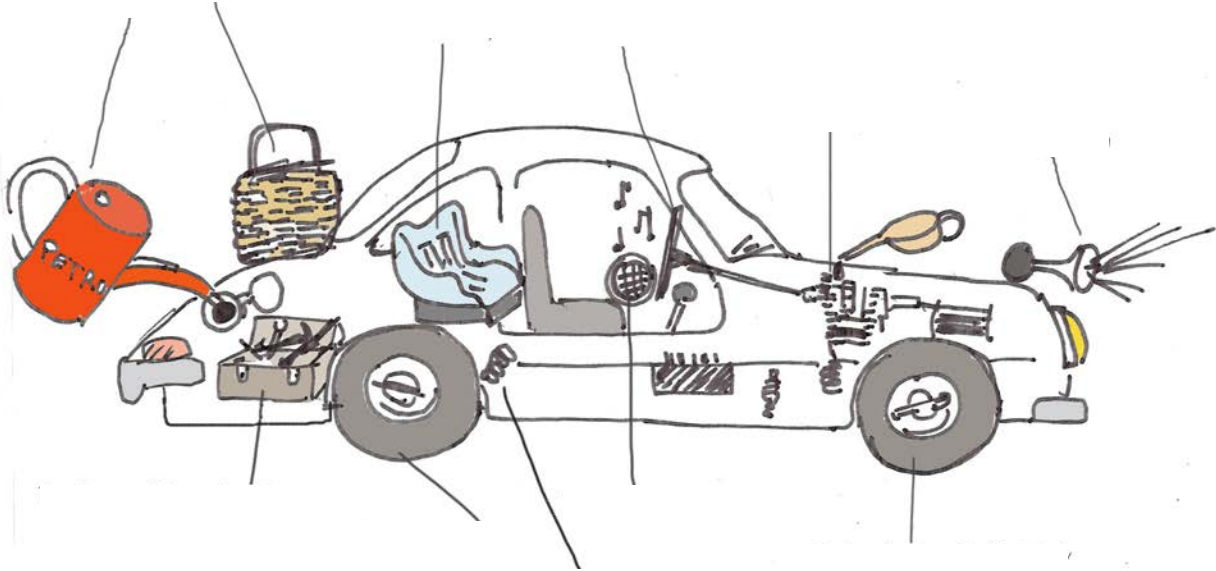
**caring for the whole of people (head, heart, hands)**

**& pursuing unity in diversity**

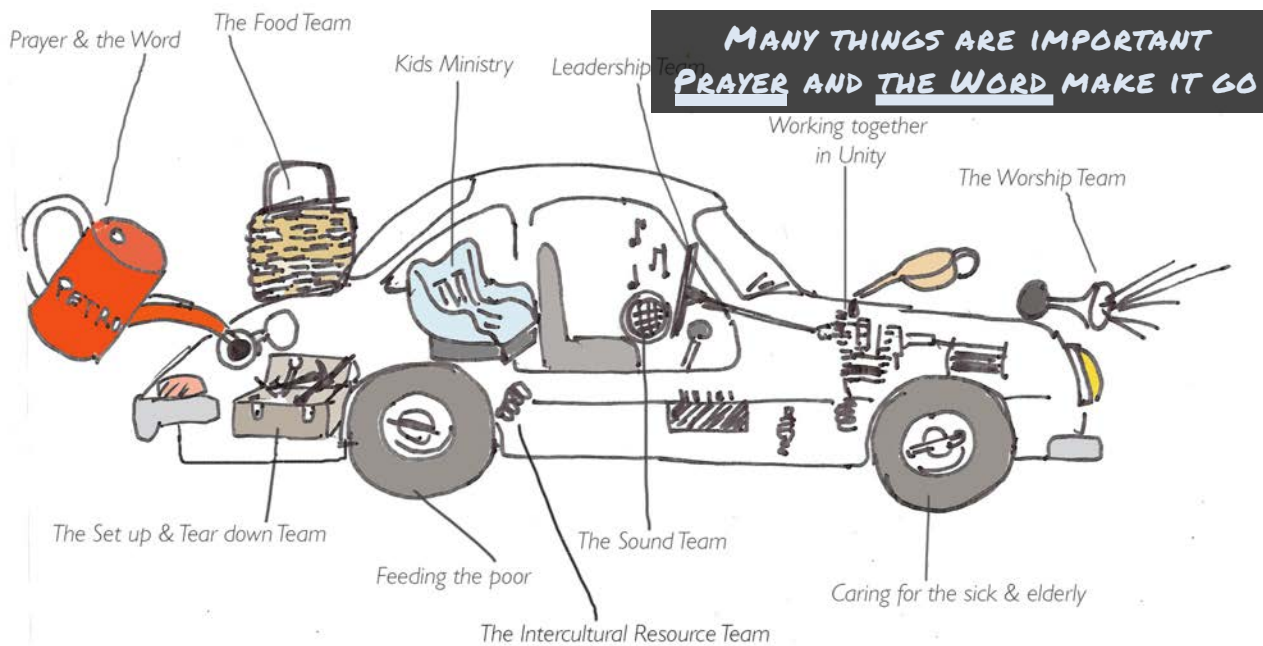
**by appointing & empowering diverse & trusted,  
spirit-filled, skilled leaders**



## What makes a car effective in its task?



## What makes a car effective in its task?



### *Application*

- Our church has wonderful **givers and workers!**

### *People are working and giving!*

CMC Kids

\*\* Youth / Alpha

Worship/Sunday team

\*\* Sound technology

Setup/teardown

Food (snacks, meals)

\*\* Life Groups

Helps

Greeters

Finance Team

External Ministry Team

Rehabilitation center

Intercultural Resource Team

\*\* Website/Technology/Media

\*\* International students  
& scholars



### *Application*

- Our church has wonderful **givers and workers!**
  - **More** are wanted and needed
- Our church has wonderful **overseers/leaders!**
  - **More** are wanted and needed
  - Expectation for church “members”
    - Everyone is giving, serving, and possibly overseeing for the good of the church
    - The church needs your perspective, the Spirit in you, and the skills and abilities you bring

### *There are opportunities to join in...*

CMC Kids	External Ministry Team
** Youth / Alpha	** External Ministries
Worship/Sunday team	Rehabilitation center
** Sound technology	Intercultural Resource Team
Setup/teardown	** Website/Technology/Media
Food (snacks, meals)	** Prayer Team
** Life Groups	** International students
** Seniors / Helps	& scholars
Greeters	** Social Connections Team
** “On ramp” Welcome Team	** Peer support
Finance Team	** Security Team

### *Application*

- Our church has wonderful **givers and workers!**
  - **More** are wanted and needed
- Our church has wonderful **overseers/leaders!**
  - **More** are wanted and needed
- Our church needs to equip, appoint, and empower people
  - Positive handoff of responsibilities
  - Positive accountability
    - “Help me do what I want & need to do”
  - Developing a process / Sunday Conversation July 8

### *Application*

- Our church has wonderful **givers and workers!**
  - **More** are wanted and needed
- Our church has wonderful **overseers/leaders!**
  - **More** are wanted and needed
- Our church needs to equip, appoint, and empower people
- Qualifications
  - Growing in trust by the people we serve & lead
  - Growing in understanding of the people we serve & lead
  - Spiritually maturing
  - Growing in relevant skills & character



### *Opportunities to serve & lead*

CMC Kids	External Ministry Team
** Youth / Alpha	** External Ministries
Worship/Sunday team	Rehabilitation center
** Sound technology	Intercultural Resource Team
Setup/teardown	** Website/Technology/Media
Food (snacks, meals)	** Prayer Team
** Life Groups	** International students
** Seniors / Helps	& scholars
Greeters	** Social Connections Team
** "On ramp" Welcome Team	** Peer support
Finance Team	** Security Team

### *The Big Idea*

**Good church growth requires...**  
**prioritizing the Word & prayer**  
**while taking seriously...**  
**caring for the whole of people (head, heart, hands)**  
**& pursuing unity in diversity**  
**by appointing & empowering diverse & trusted,**  
**spirit-filled, skilled leaders**

**THANKS BE TO GOD FOR THOSE WHO ARE GIVING, SERVING, AND/OR LEADING!**  
**WHERE MIGHT YOU BE A FIT? GIVER / WORKER / LEADER / ...**  
**WHOM MIGHT YOU ASK TO JOIN YOU?**