

## Stay in Your Lane

*From the Outpouring to the Overturning Series*

### Acts 6:1-7

#### Introduction

Over the years – I’ve talked with so many people – searching for real fulfillment in their lives ... Many have told me how they threw themselves into their jobs – ran after intriguing experiences – along with trying anything that promised to quiet that restless feeling inside ... But no matter what they chased after – nothing brought them true – lasting fulfillment ... Here’s what people need to grasp – fulfillment is never found in what you do – it is found in who you are – and in staying aligned with the gifts God has graced you with.

As believers we must understand this divine order ... First – we grasp our true identity in Christ ... Then – our divine purpose will begin to bubble to the surface ... As we consistently live from that identity and walk in that purpose – you will begin to experience the kind of fulfillment every heart long’s for ... That’s why chasing success – or running after every new trend – will always leave you empty ... Because true fulfillment only flows through alignment – staying in the lane God has specifically graced you for.

Here in Acts 6 – we see this truth being lived out ... The ekklesia was multiplying – kingdom expansion was taking place – but even in the middle of that growth – misalignment began to surface ... Some needs were overlooked – murmuring arose – and frustration began to grow ... On the surface it looked like a problem – but in reality – it was their first great test as a Spirit-filled community ... Would they slip back into old patterns – or step into Spirit alignment and embrace kingdom structure? ... And right here – the Spirit reveals a principle that still speaks to us today – alignment releases increase ... Because when every believer stayed in their lane – when they embraced Spirit alignment – the Word will spread – the community will be multiplied – and life overflows as Jesus promised.

## Transition

So – if alignment releases increase – then misalignment will always reveal the old nature – which will hinder kingdom expansion ... That's exactly what we see in Acts 6 – the first internal test of the ekklesia – and the very first sign of misalignment rising up in the community of new creation believers.

## Misalignment Always Reveals the Old Nature

Acts 6:1 (NLT) says - - **As the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent ...** The AMP version puts verse one this way - - **A complaint was made because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food**

So – what's happening here? ... Remember – the Spirit had poured out at Pentecost ... The community began growing rapidly ... But in the middle of this kingdom expansion – the old man tried to rear its ugly head ... Murmuring arose ... Complaints became the norm ... Misalignment was beginning to surface – threatening the welfare of this growing community.

## Spiritual Nugget

When the old nature begins to manifest – it is a clear indication that you are drifting out of alignment with the Spirit ... Murmuring and complaining is a resonance of this natural realm ... The resonance of a mere human being ... Paul clearly identifies this issue in:

## Colossians 3:8–10 Mirror

Now distance yourselves from everything - that is inconsistent with - who you really are – things such as anger, outbursts of rage, feelings of resentment, slander, and any form of abusive language ... To lie to one another is out of sync with your true identity ... Make a clean break with the old man ... The new lifestyle, which you have now put on, brings you back to the original pattern — you are re-created in the exact likeness of your Maker.”

Paul further clarifies this issue in:

## Ephesians 4:22–24 NLT

Throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life - which is corrupted by lust and deception ... Instead – let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes ... Put on your new nature – created to be like God – truly righteous and holy.

## 2 Corinthians 5:17 Mirror

In the light of your co-inclusion in Christ – His death and resurrection – are equally yours ... Whoever you thought you were before - - in Christ - - you are a brand-new person.

So, when any of these old nature – earthly characteristics begin to manifest – whether in the church – at home – or just in your own thoughts – it’s a signal ... It’s the Spirit’s way of saying - - “Something is out of alignment” ... Don’t let the old man – speak louder – than the new creation you really are.” ... Now catch this - - Misalignment always tries to rise – but fulfillment comes alive – when you stay faithful to the lane God has graced you for.

## Stay in Your Lane – Where True Fulfillment is Found

The apostles recognized this truth ... Acts 6 verses 2 and 4 (NLT) states - - We apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, not running a food program ... We will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.

By their comments – they were in no way – dismissing the importance of serving ... They were simply declaring a critical spiritual / mystical principle – stay in your lane ... They knew and understood their assignment ... They also knew – if they stepped out of their lane – the whole ekklesia would suffer because of it ... This is why Romans 12:6–7 (AMP) tells us - - Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to use them accordingly ... And the Mirror translation from Colossians 3:15 says - - The peace that Christ declares is the umpire of your inner life, giving your thoughts the green or red light.

Staying in your lane – is where you will experience true peace ... Staying in your lane is where your giftings will function at their best ... And here is the best part – staying in your lane is

where your divine purpose comes alive within you ... Catch this – personal fulfillment is never found by trying everything under the sun ... It's never found by scattering yourself so thin that everyone can see right through you ... Fulfillment doesn't come from busyness – it comes from oneness ... Here's the key – through alignment with the Spirit – your divine purpose will bubble up inside of you ... And as you function in that bubbling – a deep sense of purpose and fulfillment will arise ... When you stay in your lane – the lane God has graced you with – you will experience that “joy unspeakable” ... You will walk in the promise that Jesus declared in **John 10:10 - - I have come with the sole purpose for you to have life in its most complete form** ... But catch this – it isn't just about you ... Yes – you do you – but you are now part of a greater kainos community – the ekklesia ... And corporate alignment is essential for building of His ekklesia.

### **Corporate Alignment Builds a Kainos Ekklesia**

When you stay in your lane – you discover peace – your gifts flow freely – and your purpose comes alive ... But here's the thing – this isn't just about you ... Alignment is never just personal ... Alignment is always for the sake of the greater community ... Paul tells us in - - **1 Corinthians 12:7 (NLT) - - A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other** ... In other words – your gift was never meant to be hoarded ... It was meant to flow outward – to strengthen someone else – to edify the body ... Paul also added in - - **1 Corinthians 12:25 (NLT) - - This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other** ... Harmony comes from alignment – which is evidenced in Kingdom structure and order ... And when the whole Ekklesia walks in resonance with the Spirit – every member is cared for – every lane is valued – and the Ekklesia becomes a true expression of Christ on the earth.

Now catch this – Kingdom structure and order – began with the apostles setting the standard ... Acts 6:3–4 records them saying - - **Brothers, 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 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word** ... Now notice this – the community was then given the responsibility to embrace that standard and choose men who would resolve

the conflict and bring the community back into harmony with the Spirit ... Acts 6:5–6 (NLT) says - - Everyone liked this idea, and they chose Stephen (a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit), Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas of Antioch, an earlier convert to the Jewish faith. These seven were presented to the apostles, who prayed for them as they laid their hands on them.

Do you see the divine order and structure here? ... The apostles gave instruction – as those who stayed in their lane ... The community made their choice – as those who stayed in their lane ... And then the apostles confirmed and commissioned their choice – through prayer and the laying on of hands ... This is Kingdom structure and divine order in action ... Harmony with the Spirit will build a kainos community where every member carries out and fulfills their responsibility to the Ekklesia ... This is why staying in your lane is so important ... The apostles did their part ... The community did its part ... Those chosen did their part ... When complete alignment was restored – there was a direct impact of multiplication ... Acts 6:7 (NLT) tells us - - So God’s message continued to spread. The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too. ... When each believer takes personal responsibility for alignment – then the whole ekklesia flows in divine order ... And when the ekklesia is in alignment – flowing in divine order – then multiplication and transformation is inevitable.

### **Spiritual Nugget**

Isaiah 43:19 in The Message says - - Be alert, be present. I’m about to do something brand-new. It’s bursting out! Don’t you see it ...? ... Now catch this ... “Be present” – speaks of our alignment ... “Bursting out” – speaks to God’s new thing – a kainos community – is breaking forth ... “Don’t you see it” – speaks to our personal perception in the Spirit ... We see this further clarified in Ephesians 4:16 (Mirror) - - The whole body is joined and knit together in harmony – every member contributes – and the body grows and builds itself up in love ... Here’s the revelation – the Pentecostal experience was never meant to stop with an individual encounter ... It was meant to form a new kind of community – a kainos Ekklesia ... This is not a religious system ... It certainly is not a religious institution ... It is a Kingdom structure and a divine order – where every lane matters and every person carries purpose ... When you stay

aligned – God’s new thing will burst forth through you – and when the whole ekklesia lives in alignment – the new thing multiplies throughout the entire earth.

## Takeaway

True fulfillment is found in oneness – in complete alignment with the Spirit ... That’s the principle that echoes all through our text today ... When the old man rises up with murmuring, complaining, or frustration – it is a signal – the Spirit is showing you that something is out of alignment ... Don’t give the old man a louder voice – than the kainos being – you have been recreated to be in Christ ... And when distractions pull at you – when life tries to scatter you in ten different directions – come back to your lane ... Ask yourself - - What has God graced me for – in this season? ... What is the lane He has placed me in? ... That is where the peace – that passes all understanding – will settle in your spirit ... That is where your gifts will function the best ... That is where your purpose and fulfillment will bubble up inside of you – and bring you joy unspeakable.

Also – never forget – your lane is not just about you ... Your personal alignment strengthens the whole Ekklesia ... When each member takes responsibility for staying in alignment – the entire body flows with Kingdom structure and divine order ... And when the Ekklesia is in complete alignment and harmony of the Spirit – then multiplication and transformation cannot be stopped.

So here is the challenge I leave with you today ... Live this week with Purpose ... Don’t be tossed around by what the world throws your way ... Live this week in Alignment ... Don’t let the lower frequencies of this realm – like complaining, arguing, or frustration – pull you out of your lane ... And above all – Stay in your Lane ... Because focused purpose and Spirit-alignment will always lead you into the place of true fulfillment – the joy and peace that every heart is searching for.

## Closing Prayer

Father, we thank You for the Word today ... We thank You that in Christ – we are not bound to live from the old man ... We have been recreated as a kainos being – aligned in oneness with Your Spirit ... Lord, we confess that too often murmuring, distraction, or frustration has tried to pull us out of alignment ... But today, by Your Spirit, we choose to live with purpose ... We choose alignment with Your purpose for our life ... We choose to stay in the lane You have placed us in and graced us for ... Holy Spirit – renew our minds – anchor us in peace – and let the bubbling of divine purpose rise up within us this week ... May every gift You've given us flow freely – not just for ourselves – but for the harmony and building up of this Ekklesia ... Lord – I declare that this week – we will live from purpose – live in divine alignment – and stay in our lane – knowing that it's there – that we find – true fulfillment, joy, and peace ... In Jesus' mighty name - - Amen.