



# The Increase

(ACTS 6)

Ecclesiastes 3 highlights that there is a time for everything. This is an important truth, and it is one not to forget. Essentially life is made up of seasons, and each season comes with its realities and atmosphere. Furthermore, it is good to know which season you are in, but it is better to align your actions to that season.

We are in a season where the increase will be tangible, the season of great harvest. When we speak about harvesting, we refer to the harvesting of souls, bringing more people to God. However, that increase also flows into many areas of our lives. Note that whenever there is an increase, there's also somewhat of a challenge. This truth is shown in the passage of Acts 6, where the Christians were growing in numbers, but there was some sort of challenge that arose.

With the challenge met, there was a devised solution to continue the growth in a healthy manner. As the harvest is happening, there is a great need to manage the increase. So often, people ask God for more without being ready to manage it. Sometimes the increase takes longer because He wants to groom us first with management skills; He doesn't want us to waste the abundance He gives us. God wants us to learn how to handle whatever we have; He said, "if you are faithful with the small things, He will give you more" (see Luke 16:10)—being faithful means knowing how to manage anything regardless of its quantity. Whenever we ask for an increase, we should also ask for management skills. Let us be faithful with the little we have! Whatever He gives, He wants you to use it efficiently.

We see the Apostles in the main scripture using DELEGATION as a solution to manage the increase well. When they saw that their work was becoming too heavy, they appointed Stephen and the others. Therefore, just like the disciples did, learn to delegate. Some people are better skilled than you in a particular domain but don't have the resources; bring them on board, delegate, and share tasks according to their skills. Don't be self-centered! Sometimes we lack efficiency in our work because we want to do everything ourselves.

*When you see God from a personal position, it changes your approach in how you pray and interact with Him.*



Delegating is a tool for good management. Use the people around you and be flexible in working with people. God, Himself is an expert in delegating even though He can do everything on His own. The Bible says in Ephesians 4: 11 that He has appointed ministries for the good functioning of the church (Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Shepherds, and Teachers).

Again if you read Exodus 18: from 13 to the end, you will see how Moses was advised by His Father in Law, Jethro, to appoint some leaders in different groups so that Himself doesn't get worn out with the amount of work and also to help the work to be done more efficiently.

Humans are social beings and are not called to be alone. The Bible says it's not good for men to be alone (Genesis 2:18) in marriage and society. There's a need to learn how to work well together.

When it comes to Delegating, it is crucial to consider certain requirements in order to be appointed. The passage reveals three important qualities of those appointed candidates. They should be full of WISDOM (which we can ask from God), the candidates should be FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (which we got from/after salvation), and they should have a GOOD REPUTATION.

Here we see that your sanctification will attract the choice of people over you. When it comes to having a good reputation, the best that one can do is honour God and live honestly because people's standards and expectations change.

There's a way of living that reflects the nature of God that even man can acknowledge that you are different. Don't try to prove a point to people but be genuine with God. That genuineness with God will speak for you. 1 Peter 2:12 highlights that we need to live carefully. Our speech, our conduct, and all other aspects of our character should reflect godliness. Careless living has a way of catching up with an individual, so we need to check ourselves because the harvest is at hand, and we need to be good managers.

We can learn from the disciples' attitude when they were faced with a problem; they put their heads together to find a solution. They did not start arguing or blaming one another. Every time there is an issue, there is no need to fight or blame anybody but rather bring the solutions just like the people in the scripture. To maximise the harvest, we need to work together toward the Master's plan.

As the season is in motion, we need to position ourselves in readiness so that we may not miss what the Lord has prepared for us. Let us grow together to be good managers of the abundance and remember to be faithful in the little we have. We need to maximise the potential that comes with this season.

#### Reference scriptures

Matthew 14:13-21

James 1:5

Romans 12:2

