



## Selecting Elders — Our Choices

In the early church, there arose a need to minister to the physical needs of some members. The apostles told the congregation, “seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business” (Acts 6:1-3).



The apostles were looking for those whom the congregation could depend on to take care of this work. Such dependence on those, whom they chose for the work, signified their confidence in the men who were qualified to serve. The instruction to choose was given “to the multitude of the disciples.” In other words, the church was responsible to choose (endorse) men for the work based upon the confidence they had in those men who were qualified.

The choice they made, regarding the men who were qualified and in whom they had confidence to do this work, was not a choice against other good, spiritually minded, faithful men. However, the seven they did choose were men who came to the mind of the church (collectively) as they considered possible candidates who were “men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom.” We do not sense any uncertainty in the choice they made or hesitancy on the part of the men they chose. It was a confident choice in those qualified to accept the work. Continued on page 3

